

Councillor hits out as Darlaston's old ground targeted

CALL FOR ACTION AFTER CLUB FIRE

By Peter Madeley

CALLS have been made for the future of Darlaston Town Football Club's old ground to be secured after the main stand was set alight in a suspected arson attack.

Police are investigating the fire which started last Wednesday evening, as fire crews were called to the derelict City Ground on Waverley Road after receiving reports that part of the stand was ablaze.

Councillor Keith Chambers, who represents Bentley and Darlaston North on Walsall Council, said: "The ground is going to rack and ruin. It's been in a state for too long now and this isn't the first time it has been subjected to some form of vandalism.

"The future of the land needs to be sorted out as a matter of urgency to stop this sort of thing from happening again. It has potential for development and I'd like to see what, if anything, is in the pipeline."

Firefighters found a 20sqm section of the wooden stand ablaze in what has been described as 'a severe fire'.

The heat from the flames is said to have damaged window frames to properties in nearby Slater Street.

Serious

Fifteen firefighters took around an hour-and-a-half to put out the fire and secure the area. A number of wooden seats that had been damaged were removed from the stand.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Matthew Smith said: "We received reports of a serious fire at the former Darlaston Town football ground. It was a severe fire, damaging around 20sqm of a wooden stand. Fire crews from Willenhall, Bilston and Tipton attended the scene and tackled the fire using hose reel jets.

"They also used a thermal imaging camera to check for hotspots and make sure the area was secure. We believe the fire was started deliberately." No injuries were reported as a result of the incident.

Police are treating the fire as arson. They have asked for anyone with information to call 101. Darlaston Town played at the ground until the club folded in 2013. Although a 'phoenix' club with the same name was subsequently formed, Walsall Council took over ownership of the City Ground and boarded it up.

Last year an application to register it as an Asset of Community Value was approved, meaning that if the council decides to sell the ground the club have first option on buying it.

MUDASSIR'S HOT STUFF AFTER CHEF AWARD WIN



Head chef at Shika's, Mudassir Ahmed celebrates being given one of the Curry Life Chef of the Year awards. He lives in Great Barr

A CHEF from the Black Country has been voted one of the best in the UK at a top awards ceremony.

Mudassir Ahmed, head chef at Shika's Indian Takeaway in Great Barr, was named one of the top 40 curry chefs in the country at the Curry Chef of the Year Awards.

Mr Ahmed, who has worked at the restaurant in Birmingham Road for 15 years, said he was delighted to receive the award.

"I was so happy to win, it was a great feeling," Mr Ahmed said. "It was customer nominated so that was fantastic and I'd like to

thank everyone who put me forward. This means a lot to me and a lot of hard work has gone into it.

"To win this title is the greatest vote of confidence I could wish for, not just for myself but for my team who work so hard. The award will inspire us to keep improving and I'd also like to thank all our customers for their help putting us on the map."

Guest of honour at the awards ceremony was Lord Karan Bilimoria, founder chairman of Cobra Beer. He said: "There is no doubt that curry is the nation's favourite food and

behind the great tastes of curry, are great craftsmen.

"Those chefs have been awarded by Curry Life, deserves to be congratulated for their hard work and achievements."

MP Keith Vaz, who is the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, praised the chefs for producing the best quality curries in Great Britain. Other guests at the event included Sadiq Khan, Labour Party's London Mayoral Candidate, Paul Scully MP, Rupa Haq MP, Angela Rayner MP, Wes Streeting MP and Paula Sherriff MP.

COUNCIL

Library staff face axe as cuts loom

LIBRARIES that survive council cuts in Walsall could still see the number of staff working in them reduced, it has emerged.

New technology including self-service machines and a new smart card entry system is planned, meaning less staff will be needed.

Walsall Council is looking to axe seven libraries and the mobile library service, along with 13 jobs, as part of plans to save £328,854 next year and £159,058 the year after. And it has now emerged that around £300,000 could be invested into some of the remaining nine libraries to bring in a new management system, allowing visitors to use them when they are unstaffed.

Customers would be given a special card and PIN to access the libraries when they are unmanned, with CCTV keeping watch and a book detection system used to keep track of items leaving the building.

Opening times could increase, to allow access between 8am to 8pm. Libraries in Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston, Pelsall, Pheasey, Streetly, Willenhall and the Walsall Central Library stand to remain open.

Although around £300,000 would initially be invested in the scheme, depending on the libraries selected, it is expected to save the authority £349,813 in 2017/18.

Security cameras would record who accesses the building.

● Hundreds – Page 3

PLANNING

Empty factory site to be transformed

A FORMER industrial site that has stood empty for more than five years is poised to be transformed after planning officers recommended warehouses be built at the site.

The development is planned for the old Ductile Wesson site in Moxley where the previous foundry shut in 2009, closing the door on 200 years of history.

British Airways Pension Trustees Ltd is poised to breathe new life into the site after plans were lodged with Walsall Council to build two warehouses, offices, car parking and service yards at the site in Bull Lane. The proposals are recommended for approval today.

It comes after around 150 people lost their jobs when the foundry shut down more than five years ago.

INSIDE

KIMI GETS READY TO REMEMBER



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Chilling Halloween as Comic Con lands in town



Comic Con fair at Walsall town hall, which became a haven for sci-fi and fantasy fans

A HOST of weird and wonderful characters made an appearance at Walsall's first ever Comic Con.

Thousands of horror and superhero enthusiasts descended on the town hall for the event, with many dressing up for the occasion.

There was even a chance to meet a number of famous faces, including actor Ian McNeice - who starred as Winston Churchill in Doctor Who - Hattie Hayridge of Red Dwarf fame



Red Dwarf's Hattie Haybridge with Dylan Garrington



Tom Jancso, aged 13, from Kingswinford

and Welsh actor Ian Whyte, from Game of Thrones and Prometheus.

The stars met with fans, who were charged up to £15 for an autograph from their idols. Hayridge, who played Holly in Red Dwarf, said: "It's great that Walsall now has its own Comic Con. This is an intimate setting and it is a great event for people who have never been to one before and can come and see what it is all about. "And I really like meeting all



Leanne Whitehouse dressed as Poison Ivy

the fans," the 60-year-old said at Saturday's event.

McNeice, aged 65, whose impressive CV also includes roles on Doc Martin and Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason, was also pleased to meet his fans. He said: "The event has been very well attended and I've met a lot of Dr Who and Doc Martin fans." It was the first Comic Con that teenager Tom Jancso, 13, from Kingswinford, had been to - and he



Film and TV star Ian McNeice, who starred in Doctor Who as Winston Churchill

left feeling impressed. He said: "I was really excited and it's been amazing. I love Star Wars, the film is iconic and it's great that everyone comes together and dresses up." On the other end of the scale was veteran Comic Con attendee Tessa Isted, from West Bromwich, who said the event was brilliant.

Dressed as Disney's Cinderella, she said: "We go to lots of these events all over the country."

Killing spree went on too long, says minister

THE ISIS terrorist who murdered 38 tourists on a beach resort in Tunisia was able to continue his killing spree for more than half-an-hour because of serious failings in the country's intelligence and security services.

Senior officials have told the Express & Star there were 'chain of command' problems that led to Tunisian police not taking immediate action against Seifeddine Rezgui.

And Foreign Office minister Tobias Ellwood said the gunman was given 'far too long' to continue his massacre at Port El Kantaoui for 33 minutes. Mr Ellwood said: "It is recognised he had time to carry on far too long. He had chosen this particular hotel we believe because others had police stationed outside.

"We are working closely with the Tunisian government to improve their intelligence and security capabilities, which were not good enough." Joel Richards, aged 19, his grandfather Charles Patrick Evans, 78, both from Wednesbury, and Joel's uncle Adrian Evans, 49, from Bilston, were among the 38 tourists killed.

Had swifter action been taken it is possible some of them could have been saved. A source close to the investigation said there was confusion among

Report by Rob Golledge

police officers at the scene. There was essentially a chain of command issue. Ultimately there was confusion over what to do and who was responsible for decision making," they said. British counter terrorism experts

from the Metropolitan Police's specialist SO15 unit are now working with the Tunisian government to improve its intelligence gathering, as well as its on the ground response to attacks.

Meanwhile, Metropolitan Police officers are investigating the Sousse beach attack as well as the Bardo Museum murders in the capital Tunis, where former Sally Adey from Al-brighton was killed. Its findings are expected to be reported soon.

Injuries in crashes

TWO cars overturned and one ploughed through a bus stop and a garden wall in three separate crashes in the Black Country in the space of half an hour.

Six people were injured and one left in a critical condition following the spate of smashes across Friday night and into the early hours of Saturday morning.

The first incident at around 11.30pm saw a BMW Z4 career across Chester Road in Brownhills and plough through a bus stop and a garden wall before coming to a halt in a front garden.

The force of the impact snapped the front driver's side wheel off the car. A 38-year-old woman from the Brownhills area was arrested at the scene after giving a positive breath test. She was bailed pending further inquiries.

Then at 12.15am on Saturday a car collided with a number of stationary

vehicles before overturning and coming to rest on its roof.

West Midlands Ambulance Service sent three ambulances, a paramedic area support officer and the MERIT trauma doctor to the scene on Bloxwich Road.

Service spokesman Jamie Arrowsmith said: "The driver of the car, a man in his 30s, had to be helped out of the vehicle and was treated for a suspected head injury and cuts to his arm. "He was immobilised with the use of a neck collar and spinal board and taken to Walsall Manor Hospital.

"There were two further patients, a man who was sitting in one of the stationary vehicle and a woman who was just about to get in to the passenger seat."

A further crash happened on Pleck Road, in Walsall near to the Bradford Arms pub, shortly before 12.50am and saw a car collide with a tree and roll over.

Parade for town halted over lack of organisers

THIS year's Remembrance Sunday parade in Bloxwich has been scrapped. Community leaders battled to save the tradition but, without a branch of the Royal British Legion in the town to lead the event, had to admit defeat.

The traditional parade usually leads from Park Road up High Street to the cenotaph. This year, there will only be a gathering in the grounds of All Saints Church.

Bloxwich East Councillor Julie Fitzpatrick said: "There is no Royal British Legion branch in Bloxwich so we were at a bit of a loss as to what to do. There is nobody to head up the event.

"It is gutting that it cannot go ahead. It's something that happens every year and it is important to remember those who gave their lives for this country. We need to start looking at what we can do next year. We need an event organiser."

Councillor Shaun Fitzpatrick, who also represents Bloxwich East, said he had also been contacted by residents who were concerned about the issue.

He added: "Ever since I can remember Bloxwich has always had a parade and it always has a good turnout, it is very important to us and the people of the town."

The news comes after it emerged last month that some of the routes for the Remembrance Sunday parades in Walsall will have to change this year due to police cuts. Anyone who can help organise a parade next year in Bloxwich can call Councillor Julie Fitzpatrick on 01922 446521.

Alcohol seized on area streets

A CRACKDOWN on people drinking on the streets in Caldmore has resulted in police seizing alcohol 18 times in the past three weeks. Extra patrols have been taking place with police confiscating alcohol and moving people on when they find anyone drinking.

Sergeant Richard Jacques, from Palfrey neighbourhood police team, said: "Names of those acting in an anti social manner whilst drinking are being collated with a view to further action being taken against them by both police and partner agencies.

"Several meetings have taken place where partners discussed how best to tackle the issues at the location for the long term.

"The council's area manager for this location is drawing up an action plan."

Industrial site in warehouses bid

A FORMER industrial site that has stood empty for more than five years is poised to be transformed after planning officers recommended warehouses be built at the site. The development is planned for the old Ductile Wesson site in Moxley.

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Man found with knives in his hands at centre

POLICE found a man armed with a knife in each hand after a disturbance in a Black Country town centre.

The officers were alerted to a potential problem at the Saddlers Centre in Walsall, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. They saw Jason Ewing standing in Park Street with a fixed stare on his face and a knife in either hand on November 30.

The 22-year-old obeyed an order to drop the weapons and lay face down on the ground while he was searched, said Mr Oliver Woolhouse defending.

Officers discovered three more knives hidden in his clothing and while being taken to the police station for questioning Ewing told them he had come to Walsall with the intention of either stabbing himself or somebody else, the court heard.

Mr Daniel White, defending, said that psychiatric reports had indicated Ewing was in need of mental health treatment and a bed was available for him at Brooklands Hospital in Coleshill Road, Marston Green.

Ewing from Hawbush Road, Leamore, Bloxwich pleaded guilty to possession of a bladed article and breaching a community order imposed for criminal damage to a street bin on October 28.

He was made the subject of a Hospital Order preventing his release until medical experts are confident it was appropriate for him to be set free.

Recorder John Edwards told Ewing: "You are suffering from a condition which requires treatment that you can receive at Brooklands Hospital."

Fight launches to save library

CAMPAIGNERS have launched a petition against plans by the cash-strapped council to close New Invention Library. The library, in Lichfield Road, is one of around half a dozen earmarked to close as part of council plans to save £25 million.

Beechdale, Blakenall, New Invention, Pleck, Rushall and South Walsall libraries are at risk of closure as part of the new raft of planned cuts.

A petition has now been launched against the closure by Willenhall North Councillor Adam Hicken and resident, 52-year-old Glyn Marston.

Councillor Hicken said: "With community groups and jobseekers also using the library, it is clear that this is not just another library but provides essential services for our residents."

Cafe scheme for post office site

A FORMER post office in Walsall will be transformed into a cafe under plans poised to create two jobs. The building in Spring Road, Sheffield, has been vacant since April last year and plans have now been lodged.

Bridge work looking good after efforts



Workers guide another girder into place

WORK to rebuild a railway bridge and electric trains to Walsall is gathering pace. The structure in the town centre is being overhauled as part of plans to electrify 15 miles of line from Rugeley to Trent Valley.

The work started last year and was originally scheduled to be completed by July 2015. However, last week, photographs showed a giant hole in the ground where the bridge once stood. A picture shows that work has progressed quickly since, with the structure now visibly coming together after a weekend of rebuilding.

The rebuilding project started on October 4, with Network Rail set to suspend work at the end of the November to avoid disruption over the Christmas shopping period before re-starting in January, with Easter 2016 now the date bosses have given for completion.

Meanwhile, the electrification side of the plans will not be finished until the end of 2017.

The work has already caused delays to plans to build a new permanent home for Walsall Market, however council bosses have said they have

faith the project will be done in good time. Councillor Mohammed Arif, who represents St Matthews ward, said: "Obviously these are essential repairs that Network Rail are carrying out."

"Sometimes we don't actually realise what we are walking on, Park Street is such a busy street in the town centre but sometimes work of this nature has to be done, just like anywhere else. The long term benefits of this work outweigh the delays we have had so far and I am glad to see work is gathering pace now."

Hundreds to lose their jobs in budget cuts

MORE than 350 people will lose their jobs under Walsall Council's next round of budget cuts, the council leader has warned.

A further 100 posts will also be axed under the money-saving measures.

Council leader Mike Bird spelt out the human consequence of the next batch of £25 million savings at a meeting lobbied by placard-waving protesters chanting 'unfair' and 'selfish' about other upcoming cutbacks.

Councillor Bird said he was now going to write to the local government secretary Greg Clark to tell him the council was stretched to its financial limit.

He said: "I'm getting tired of doing the government's dirty work. Enough is enough."

"We've got to stand up to government - we can't keep reducing our services or closing them down. Westminster is not going to empty the bins or fill in the holes in the road."

The leader was talking to unions about a total of 354 potential job losses, both voluntary and compulsory, and a further 96.8 posts, currently vacant, which would be deleted if the 2016/17 budget is given the go-ahead.

Criticised

And when it comes to the 2017/18 budget, there will be a referendum with people given the choice of either accepting a council tax increase of two per cent or more or paying for some services or face losing them. The council has been criticised for allocating £250,000 to spend on a referendum in which the outcome is expected to be a resounding 'no' to a council tax hike.

But Mr Bird said: "We have no option. Some think that if you cut councillors' allowances it will balance the books. They just don't get it. We've got to get the message across that there are some difficult decisions to be made, and we need people's input."

As part of the proposed cuts, seven out of 16 libraries and the mobile library service would shut, with the loss of 13 jobs, as part of plans to save £328,854 next year and £159,058 the year after.

Walsall's decision-making cabinet voted through the financial plan at the meeting last Wednesday.

An appeal to delay a £73,000 cut in youth services' funding in the borough's poorest areas to spend on better-off neighbourhoods was rejected.



Kimi Arblaster, aged seven, launches the Pelsall village Poppy Appeal in High Street, Pelsall, Walsall ready for Remembrance Sunday

Kimi all set for poppy parade

THE Pelsall branch of the Royal British Legion has launched its poppy appeal for this year.

As well as traditional paper poppies, the RBL will also be selling knitted poppies, badges and youth packs containing rubbers and pencils.

The appeal was launched on Saturday at the branch's stall outside the Co-op on Pelsall high street.

Garry Perry, the president of the Pelsall branch of the RBL, said: "It went very well, especially given the wet weather."

"It went as we expected, the community always supports the Poppy Appeal up and down the country. Now are are hoping to beat last year's target of £2,219."

"We had our poppy stall out for the first time on the weekend. The poppies were distributed to shops and schools in the week but this was the first time our stall was out. It'll be up everyday now until poppy day. We will have our team out rattling buckets and shaking tins."

This year, the poppy appeal in Pelsall is being helped by seven-year-old mascot Kimi Arblaster.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Number of trust complaints rise

COMPLAINTS received by the NHS trust that runs Walsall Manor Hospital rose by nearly 40 per cent last month, new figures show.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust dealt with 39 formal complaints and 258 informal complaints in September.

New complaints last month included patients unhappy with the care they received, staff attitudes and alleged bullying by staff towards visitors. Despite this, the number of complaints received by the health trust also rose to 69 last month, compared to 40 in August.

Taxi rank plan despite protests

A CAR park in Willenhall is poised to be transformed into a taxi rank and a car wash despite dozens of protesters signing a petition. The land in question is a 23-space site off Union Street.

The proposal has been put forward by A2Z but a 49-named petition against the plans has been received from Light and Life Christian Centre.

Protesters claim it is not the right place for a car wash and would have a detrimental effect on the usage of the church, which has a congregation of around 250 people each Sunday. It also has other weekday meetings.

Lorry and van in crash on M-way

A LORRY and a van crashed on the M6, causing long delays.

Two lanes of the motorway had to be closed following the smash on the northbound carriageway of the motorway between junction 10a, near Essington, and junction 11, for Cannock, at about 11am last Thursday.

The lanes of the motorway were closed for about 35 minutes.

Nobody involved in the incident was thought to have suffered any serious injuries.

Firm set for more time to clear up

AN Aldridge company that illegally operated a tip is set to be granted an extra five months to clean up the land.

Residents complained of being plagued by dust and flies after Aldridge Aggregates & Recycling set up in Middlemore Lane earlier this year without planning permission.

Planning chiefs are being asked to grant extra time for the site to be cleared by April 1 after an agreement was reached with council officers and the Environment Agency.

Homes on the rise

A LANDMARK former bakery site in Walsall is poised to get approval to be transformed into a housing estate. The old Maple Leaf site in Raleigh Street, Birchills, will be replaced with 80 new homes under the plans.

Walsall Council planning officers have recommended the scheme.

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A READER says he cannot take much more James Bond. After so many trailers, guest appearances, premieres, interviews and the rest of the Bond ballyhoo, he feels he has already seen Spectre several times over. He asks: "Has 007 never heard of overkill?" Probably not.

SPARE us the surprise and the big, panicky headlines over the World Health Organisation's latest claim that bacon and other processed meats can cause cancer. If you have the Full English Breakfast often enough, it may turn into the Full English Tumour. But this is not news. The link between meat, especially processed meat, and cancer has been known for years. A study of 500,000 Europeans concluded that those who eat two portions of meat a day increase their risk of bowel cancer by more than a third compared to those who eat it once a week. And that was in 2005. How quickly we choose to forget information we don't like. Or maybe bacon is seriously bad for your memory.

DOES a day go by without supporters of Jeremy Corbyn proudly boasting of his massive mandate? Corbyn took a whopping 59.5 per cent of the vote. That's 251,417 of the 422,664 votes cast and it looks impressive. But, lest we forget, the Labour-leadership election was open not only to existing Labour Party members but to the entire nation. Virtually anyone could pay £3 to register as a Labour 'supporter' and they had many weeks in which to do it. So here was a transforming event, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all the angry, disaffected folk in the UK to rise up and support a new sort of politics. Here was a chance for 45 million potential voters to throw their weight behind a genuine Left-wing politician, for less than the price of a pint. Corbyn's 251,417 votes represents only about one voter in 180 in the UK. That 'massive mandate' is maybe not so massive, after all.

SAUDI Arabia's ambassador to Britain complained a few days ago of a lack of respect for his country and deplored an "alarming change in the way Saudi Arabia is discussed in Britain." A couple of days later, one Saudi prince was detained in Lebanon following the biggest drug seizure in the history of Beirut airport. The next day, another Saudi prince was accused of assaulting three American women and holding them captive at a mansion in Beverly Hills. Respect? You earn it.

WE worry about a shortage of pumpkins forcing us to use turnips for Halloween lanterns... A few hundred miles away, on the borders of the Balkans, among that massive trudging queue of humanity, old folk and children, having survived the perils of the Med, will soon be freezing to death.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Medical centre extension planned

A MEDICAL centre in Walsall will expand with a new-look lobby and meeting room, under new plans. Plans have been lodged with Walsall Council to build an extension on to Broadway Medical Centre, in Broadway, Palfrey, to provide an improved lobby area and meeting room for the surgery.

A report, lodged with the proposals, said that currently access to the

surgery waiting room was restricted with visitors passing through the stairwell in order to use the surgery. But the new plans aim to bring about improvements, making life easier for staff and patients.

It said: "This application seeks approval for the extension of the front north elevation to provide an improved access lobby area and meeting room for the existing surgery."

"The new lobby area will provide an improved level access point, with automatic assisted entrance doors to the surgery and into the adjoining waiting room.

"All site levels will be to match that of the existing site to allow easier movement in and out of the building. The proposals are wholly in-keeping with the scale and mass of the existing surgery."

The plans involve increasing the floor space of the surgery by seven per cent and the extension would add another 212sq ft to the building.

The works would also extend to relocating a side fire exit door. The report said the proposed alterations were designed to have minimal impact on neighbouring sites. A decision on the proposals is due to be made in the upcoming months.

Carving out a name for himself in pumpkin art

Report by Carl Jackson

IT started as an idea to create something special for his son. But now a Walsall man's 'spook-tacular' pumpkins are the must-have Halloween decoration for some of London's swankiest nightspots - including Prince Harry's favourite haunts.

Nine years ago Simon Patel tried his hand at carving his own pumpkins for his new-born boy Dylan.

Such is the demand for the 39-year-old's talents that he spends two weeks in the build-up to Halloween creating up to 30 unique pumpkins for others. Customers include schools and businesses in the borough as well as trendy nightclubs such as Kensington's Bodo's Schloss or the capital's Mahiki bar - both of which are known to host A-list celebrities such as Prince Harry and runner Usain Bolt.

Mr Patel, of Primley Avenue, Alumwell, said: "It is incredible how it has happened so quickly. It is just mind-blowing. I just wish it was like this all year round."

Goblin

The house-husband, who has been a keen artist all of his life, admitted his first attempt left a lot to be desired but then he started picking up tips by watching American sculptor Ray Villafane on YouTube.

"When my boy was born I just wanted to do something special for him for Halloween," said Mr Patel.

"My first was a goblin, but it wasn't particularly good. I was using spoons and kitchen utensils but then I found out about using clay modelling tools.

"From there I just got better and better. I have really expensive equipment now. I must have spent about £100 on it."

While that might sound like an expensive hobby some of his creations, which range from traditional skulls to intricately detailed pirate faces, have fetched up to £75 each. Depending on the level of detail they can take as long as five hours to sculpt.

The father of two boys, Dylan, aged nine, and Dev, aged seven, used to decorate his own house with the pumpkins but now he said demand was so high that he did not have any time to make any for himself.

"I don't get much interest until this time of year but then the two weeks before Halloween everybody is asking for them," he added.



Simon Patel, very much in demand during Halloween thanks to his pumpkin carving creations



A caricature-carved pumpkin



Simon's artistry shining through



One of Simon's friendlier faces



The intricate detail of Simon's work



One creation with some real zip



A highly-stylised pirate's face

Tarmac set for biggest graduates recruitment

TARMAC is recruiting its biggest ever graduate intake. It is taking on 37 university leavers next year, nine of which will be based in the West Midlands.

The firm, which has its headquarters in Wolverhampton before its merger with Lafarge, is offering a variety of roles across its business, with each graduate position lasting for two years.

The scheme has been designed to build business skills and provide graduates with a real insight into the specialism that they choose - be it in general management, technical and engineering, operations management or finance.

The company still has a ready mix concrete plant in Millfields Road, Ettingshall.

Cyrille Ragoucy, chief executive of Tarmac, which is now based in Solihull, said: "The UK construction industry needs talented and highly-skilled people to help deliver the next generation of infrastructure supporting our economy and quality of life well into the future."

Tarmac recently welcomed 30 new starters in a variety of roles as part of its 2015 graduate scheme. In addition to its graduate recruitment programme, the company has an annual commitment to offer around 80 apprenticeship opportunities across the UK, lasting between one to five years.

For further information on Tarmac's graduate scheme or to apply, visit <http://www.tarmacgraduates.com/>

Upgrade move is welcomed

WALSALL'S environmental chief has welcomed plans to upgrade a 140-space car park which is covered in potholes at Walsall Arboretum.

Plans have been lodged by Walsall Council to make improvements to the arboretum extension car park, adjacent to Broadway North. The existing car park is inadequate to meet the needs of visitors as it is in an extremely poor condition.

Councillor Louise Harrison, Walsall Council's portfolio holder for clean and green said: "As a borough-wide and regional visitor destination enjoyed by tens of thousands of people each year, keeping on top of this type of disrepair will allow us to demonstrate that the people of Walsall have a well-founded sense of pride in this major asset."

Over-55s flats due for a spring finish

WORK on a £5 million development of apartments for over-55s at Walsall's Waterfront is on track to be completed by March next year.

The mix of one and two bedroom apartments will be wheelchair accessible and feature wet rooms.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tons of logs at farm catch alight

A BLAZE erupted on a Walsall farm when almost 50 tons of logs caught light. Around 25 firefighters tackled the flames in Doe Bank Lane just before 3.30pm last Wednesday.

A West Midlands Fire Service said a large pile of wood and waste material was well alight. An on-site tractor was used to help break up the pile and get to the centre of the blaze.

Fire crews set up a relay to source water to fight the flames as the log pile was some distance from a hydrant. Firefighters formed a line down Doe Bank Lane itself.

M6 delays after lane closures

A woman was injured following a collision between two cars on the M6.

The smash happened just after 2pm on the southbound carriageway between junction 9 for Wednesbury and junction 10 for Walsall.

An ambulance attended and the woman, in her 30s, was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital after suffering neck and chest pain.

The incident caused delays for drivers while the patient was tended to.

Less than an hour before the same lane had been closed after two HGVs broke down in unrelated incidents.

Victim of crash goes to hospital

A WOMAN was taken to hospital after a crash that closed a Black Country road for two hours. Two cars collided on Lower Rushall Street, near the junction for Holts Hill Lane, Walsall at around 9.30am last Wednesday, leaving debris and oil in the road.

One woman was taken to hospital with minor injuries after the collision.

West Midlands Police spokesperson Kate Baker said: "Luckily nobody was seriously injured as a result of the crash."

Store to expand in latest proposals

A SUPERMARKET in Willenhall will expand with a new bakery and revamped entrance, under new plans that would create jobs.

Plans have been lodged to expand the Lidl store at the junction of New Road and Railway Lane. The proposals would increase the sales area by 1,108sq ft and incorporate a new bakery to the rear of the store.

A report, lodged with the plans, reads: "The proposal will enhance the customer shopping experience."

Bus lane campaign

A PETITION calling for the removal of a controversial bus lane in Walsall has now gathered more than 1,140 signatures.

The online petition launched by Bloxwich Councillor Shaun Fitzpatrick is asking for the lane in Bloxwich High Street to be abolished.

£6k damage caused by vandals to play park

VANDALS have caused £6,000 of damage at a park in Essington.

Equipment and fencing was ruined at Swan Park in Hobnock Road, which cost £25,000 to build.

Councillor David Clift said the site had become a meeting place for vandals and drinkers, with litter, alcohol bottles, broken glass and laughing gas canisters strewn across the floor.

The most recent damage to the park includes the safety foam surface being ripped up and the belts and chains from swings being snapped off.

Councillor Clift met with Staffordshire Police and has also spoken with residents to resolve issues at the site. He said the damage would cost up to £6,000 to repair.

"It's been going on now for two weeks and it's slowly getting worse," said Mr Clift. "With the dark nights and weather it may die down but I'm asking people to keep an eye on the place and come forward. At the end of the day it's criminal damage, on Sunday they ripped the fence down and it could now cause fatal accidents. We're not going to give in to vandalism. But we can't keep replacing things until the problem is solved."

The park was originally funded by residents after a committee was formed and successfully raised £25,000. A public meeting will now be held.

Anyone with any information regarding the vandalism or drug activities should contact Staffordshire Police or Mr Clift via 07930394399.

Travellers set up at two sites

TRAVELLERS have set up camps on two sites in Walsall, prompting the council to launch action to evict them.

Walsall Council received reports that three caravans had set up camp on land off Rayboulds Bridge Road on Monday.

The authority also received reports that half a dozen caravans and vehicles had moved onto Delves Common on Sunday.

Walsall Council said officers had been carrying out welfare checks and had started the process to evict them.

It is the latest in a string of illegal camps that have been pitched in the borough.

The council recently took court action to remove travellers from Delves Common and The Parkway, Sheffield.

Road closure through town

A BUSY road in Darlaston will be closed to motorists later this week for carriageway patching works. The Black Country New Road, in Moxley, will be closed from 8pm on Friday to 6am on Saturday.

It's now or never for Well Wishers cause



Jack Moody – black shirt – with staff

WITH showgirls, a grand auction, casino tables, and an Elvis Presley tribute singer, businessman Jack Moody left delighted guests 'all shook up' after a night of entertainment in honour of Walsall's Well Wishers charity.

Mr Moody is a lung cancer patient at the Manor Hospital and following diagnosis and treatment vowed to support Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's fundraising efforts to buy a medical thoracoscopy machine, which costs up to £50,000.

The machine uses a special telescope to examine and biopsy the

pleura -the lining that covers the lung. Currently, Walsall patients have to travel to Birmingham or Dudley and this piece of equipment would mean speedier biopsies and diagnoses.

Mr Moody, who had a lung operation in April followed by chemotherapy, organised a night out for fellow business colleagues and supporters at the Premier Suite in Cannock on Saturday evening, raising more than £20,000.

Guests were able to play on a fun casino and bid for lots in a charity auction which included a signed Muhammad Ali boxing glove, a signed Aston Villa shirt, topiary flower and Thai chef cookery experience.

There were raffle prizes including a Tamworth Snowdome toboggan session, Sainsbury's gift box, a meat hamper, garden tools and a back massage.

And the main attraction was Elvis Presley tribute act Gordon Hendricks. Mr Moody, aged 69, has been in business since 1964 and has built up Jack Moody Holdings PLC which includes the Hollybush Garden Centre near Cheslyn Hay.

Cuts will mean longer turnaround on potholes

POTHOLES in Walsall will take longer to repair as the council looks to save £100,000.

Funding for road and car park maintenance will be slashed by 10 per cent under new proposals.

There would also be less money available for surfacing, lighting and ticket machine repairs at the council's 59 car parks across the borough. Further changes proposed for on-street parking – to save another £25,000 – would see motorists no longer being able to pay 20p for 10-minute slots.

Instead, fees would be set at 60p for up to 30 minutes, £1.20 for up to 60 minutes and drivers parking for up to two hours would pay £2.40. The plans form part of Walsall Council's proposals to slash £25 million from its budget in 2016/17.

A report on the budget proposals states the revised tariff structure for on-street pay and display parking could encourage visitors to stay in the town centre for longer and boost trade, but it adds that there is a risk that some motorists will park in inappropriate locations such as junctions and restricted areas.

Reactive

Under the plans, the highway maintenance budget would be cut by 10 per cent, saving £90,000 in the next financial year. The report states: "This would result in less reactive maintenance on the highway so repairs such as potholes and replacing damaged pedestrian safety barriers will take longer to complete."

It also said there would be a risk of increased accidents, injury and insurance claims if the proposals are given the go-ahead.

Darlaston South Councillor Paul Bott said it would be 'disastrous' to cut the highways maintenance budget. He said: "It would have a major impact. Roads play an essential part in getting people to work and investing in repairing potholes keeps insurance claims down. We need to invest in our roads and highways."

Reducing the maintenance of council car parks stands to save £15,000 in 2016/17, according to the plans. It would leave leaving £25,000 available in the maintenance budget to fund works such as surfacing repairs, car park machine repairs, lighting repairs, cleansing activities, general damage and destruction.

The draft budget proposals also include plans to axe libraries, slash opening hours at New Art Gallery Walsall and raise market rents.

Family first to get new kidney drug



Charlie Turner, with his aunt Debbie, left, who both have polycystic kidney disease, and mother Kay

A FAMILY battling a hereditary disease is set to be among the first in the country to use the only drug developed to treat the condition.

Four-year-old Charlie Turner, his father Craig and aunt Debbie all have polycystic kidney disease, which leads to kidney failure.

And the condition has killed Craig's father and grandmother in recent years.

It inspired Charlie's mother Kay to launch a fundraising campaign to help research into the

condition. And now the Chase-town family are set to benefit from the first drug developed to treat it.

They say it is a 'huge step forward' and could transform their lives. Craig could be given a trial course of Tolvaptan, while Debbie is also likely to be offered it in the future. And while it is thought Charlie is too young to take it at the moment, the drug is likely to be in widespread use by the time he turns 18. The medicine could mean Craig, Debbie and Charlie

do not end up with kidney failure and needing a transplant. Tolvaptan is available on the NHS at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Until now, many of the 60,000 patients with PKD in the UK did not have access to any treatment.

Kay said: "It's great news and will completely change Charlie's life when he gets older." The disease has varying levels of seriousness – but there is little to treat it at its more serious stages.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Man, that ridiculous PC crowd are back

REALLY, I should be livid that the politically-correct barmptots have taken it upon themselves to indoctrinate our children yet further by banning the use of phrases such as 'sissy' or 'man-up' in the playground.

Aside from the fact that I am fairly sure that no schoolchild has said 'sissy' since about 1975, I do think the way that the education system abuses its privileged position to brainwash impressionable youngsters with political correctness and green ideology is one of the most sinister developments of the past 20 years or so.

Particularly as it has coincided with Britain's schools plunging down the world league tables in the things that really do matter, like reading, writing, and doing sums.

Groups of pupils will also be encouraged to inform on their peers to an appointed "Gender Champion". Wasn't that sort of thing supposed to have died out with the fall of the Berlin Wall and all that?

And yet, strangely enough, I do find myself agreeing with the PC brigade on at least one aspect of this assault on free speech.

'Man-up' is a truly hateful phrase, and children really should be taught that it is never acceptable to use it. In this context at least, 'man' is a noun, not a verb. Yes, you can man a car park. But you can't man-up, man-down or anything else. That's why teachers should be telling them it's banned.

A NEW survey, compiled by a think-tank nobody has ever heard of, says Wolverhampton and Sandwell are the two most miserable places in the UK.

Really? I can't believe that. I mean what do people in the West Midlands have to be miserable about?

After all, it's not as if we are constantly patronised by a liberal London elite which seems to revel in forcing its strange values on us, is it?

AND I bet if the people in power actually did start listening to folk in this area, they could save a bit of money.

Over the past few months we have been repeatedly been told how ministers of successive government were dazzled and 'mesmerised' by Camilla Batmanghelidjh, and were persuaded into pouring millions of pounds into the appallingly managed Kids Company. All the evidence suggests that much of this money has been wasted.

Yet, I bet if they had sought the advice of anybody from the Black Country, they would not have been 'mesmerised' at all. They would have come to the same conclusion that I did several years ago.

That Camilla Batmanghelidjh was just a fruitcake in silly clothes. And think how many police stations that would have paid for.



WOLVERHAMPTON PATRICK MULVANEY COPYRIGHT



Surjit Singh with his portrait as he is now and at aged 18



The younger generation take a selfie in front of the portraits

Faces tell the story of changing society

A unique exhibition illustrates the vital role of immigrants in the Black Country's recent past. **PETE MADELEY** reports

THEY travelled more than 5,000 miles in search of work in Black Country towns that were suffering from a chronic labour shortage in the aftermath of the Second World War.

But while migrants from South Asia have made a huge contribution to the rich tapestry of life in the region and beyond, their impact has been largely ignored in artistic circles.

Now the lives of some of the thousands who made the journey into the unknown from the Punjab region of India to Wolverhampton have been recognised in a unique arts project.

Exodus: Movement of a People, features a collection of personal photographs showing first generation migrants around the time they arrived in the old town in the 1960s.

Brainchild

The stark monochrome images are displayed alongside portrait photographs showing the individuals as they are now, some 50 years after they first set foot on the streets of Wolverhampton.

Currently on display at the Bantock House Museum, the project is the brainchild of Wolverhampton-born photographers Anand Chhabra and Sarvjit Sra, who say they wanted to build up a collection of images that define 'the true identity' of South Asian migrants.

The pair run Black Country Visual Arts, an organisation set up in 2014 that is committed to opening up new avenues of art across the region.

"There hasn't really been a drive to document the stories of people from the Punjab when they first came to England," said Anand, aged 43, from Warstones.

"We looked at the historical archives in Wal-



Photographers Anand Chhabra and Sarvjit Sra with their exhibition at Bantock House Museum

sall, Sandwell and Wolverhampton and there is very little that speaks for this generation.

"It's something of a hidden community, partly because in the past people have perhaps not had the confidence or know-how to show their history in an artistic way. It was something we wanted to put right."

The group received funding from Arts Council England and set about the task of gathering photographs, firstly from friends and family and then from the wider community.

"We basically hit the streets for six months," said Sarvjit, 44, from Penn.

"It was a case of turning up in Blakenhall, Park Village and Bradmore and knocking doors and asking for old black and white photographs. We were asking them to hand over their prized possessions to people who they didn't know, so it wasn't easy.

"But gradually we started to build up trust

within the community and people began to come on board."

The UK's ties with the Punjab date back to the mid-19th century, while many Sikhs served in the British Army and saw active service in both world wars.

Indians began to settle in the Black Country in the early 1950s and census records show there were 10 Indian families in Wolverhampton in 1954. By 1956 an Indian Workers Association was up and running with 150 members, but the bulk of migration would occur from 1961-71.

The first wave of migrants were primarily men from middle ranking peasant families, often with ties to the colonial army or police force. Often they would travel over and find work in the Black Country, with their families joining them once they were settled. Over that decade settlement from India and Pakistan to

Wolverhampton rose from 1,756 to 12,120. A similar picture played out elsewhere around the Black Country, with Smethwick in particular attracting large numbers of migrants from the Punjab.

The search for employment was a key factor, with migrants attracted to the Black Country by the promise of jobs in foundries, steel works and clothing factories.

Sarvjit's father, Surjit Singh, is shown in one of the portraits, the 65-year-old clutching a photograph of himself sporting an Elvis hairstyle that was taken in 1966, a year before he came to Wolverhampton.

Surjit's father, who served in the British Army and the Indian Army, had come to England in 1963 after he was granted a work voucher. "My father came over and then he brought me over once he'd settled. My mother came later," said Surjit, who lives in Penn.

"A lot of people used to do that. I was 16 at the time and when I arrived I got a job threading brass in a factory on Wednesfield Road.

Exciting

"Everything was completely different from what I had known back home, but it was an exciting time."

Surjit went on to spend 35 years working for the Motor Components firm in Oxford Street, Bilston, that went on to become TRW Valves.

"I found the old picture when I went back to India last year," Surjit added. "I look at it now and think about how things have changed."

Harbans Lal came to Wolverhampton 1965 as a 12-year-old, joining his father who had arrived two years earlier.

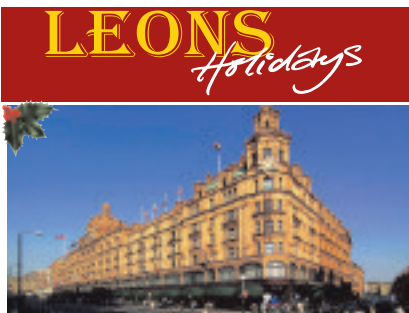
"It was very difficult when I got here, a complete shock to me," said Harbans, now 65.

"Getting used to somewhere new, going to Springfield School and learning the language; it was a lot to take in."

The father of four served an apprenticeship at Guy Motors and then worked at Goodyear for 22 years. He now runs appliance store East and West Aid which is near his home in Blakenhall.

"Seeing the pictures it shows how much has changed. We were all so young. Now the new generation has grown up here."

The Exodus project runs at the Bantock House Museum until November 12.



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Farce of region's shortest bus lane

REGARDING the decision to have a length of road on the Pinfold, Bloxwich, as a bus lane. This has got to be one of the most ludicrous ideas to come from Walsall Council. It does not give the bus drivers any advantage.

It must be one of the shortest bus lanes in the West Midlands. I've never seen a bus stuck in a lane at the site in question.

Getting along Bloxwich High Street is another thing. It has to be the most unwelcoming high street in the region.

The traffic comes to a standstill straight away, sometimes for hours. There have been

one or two accidents over the last few years which bears this out. One was a young girl who had to be airlifted to hospital because police and ambulances could not get down Bloxwich High Street.

She was put on a trolley by the ambulance crew and pushed three or four hundred yards to the local park to a helicopter. Even this year there was an accident with a van and car opposite Victoria Avenue where the high street was closed for several hours.

RON ROBERTS

Ex-trolleybus driver, Bloxwich

Levy needs to come in on sugar

THE report by Public Health England into effect of excessive sugar consumption in Britain is welcomed but a missed opportunity to take measures such as a levy on food and drink with very high levels of sugar content that have been rejected by this Government.

There is a health emergency here in Walsall and in Britain, with around two thirds of adults having an unhealthy weight and well over 20 per cent of our 10 year olds being seriously overweight.

£5bn nationally is spent by our NHS each year and rising, in treating the consequences.

On top of this bad teeth is the main cause for children to be admitted to hospital (to have teeth extracted). Children especially consume over three times the recommended amount.

We could save over 4,000 lives over the next 10 years by just reducing sugar intake down to 30g or seven sugar cubes a day.

CLLR IAN ROBERTSON
Shadow Labour Health Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

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expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

NHS needs central purchasing arm

THE NHS is one of the biggest employers in the world, the fifth largest according to some sources yet it seems as if it is a group of amateur services each trying their best to outdo the others.

Try to compare the way these services operate to our major supermarket chains. I have read of some hospital trusts paying 70p for a box of gloves while another pays over £2.50, do you think that one branch of Tesco would pay 50p for a box of tea bags while another pays £2?

These supermarket chains are powerful enough to dictate the price of what they buy to their suppliers and compared to the NHS they are minnows. The NHS should have a central pur-

chasing system and control the prices of everything they buy to get the best possible deal nationally, everything from toilet rolls to the most complicated MRI or CT scanners.

Then let's look at the variations in hospital car park fees and times, what would it cost to set up a national set fee for all hospital car parking each one using the same system and method of entry, payment and exit.

You could even have a system where patients who have to visit different hospitals on a regular basis purchasing discount bulk parking tokens for use at different hospitals, what an idea that would be.

B CHILDS
Walsall

Electoral roll street heroes

INDIVIDUAL electoral registration has been introduced for four years now. Voters whose existing details cannot be confirmed by data matching have to provide additional forms of identification. Local councils have been given the huge task of checking the register, names, addresses. Council staff are unsung valiants undertaking door-to-door calls.

They are brave people having to endure being sworn at, chased by dogs, being ignored, lied to, dealing with language difficulties, wrong data and, general disaffection with voting. Let's salute them who keep our democracy as open and accessible as possible given the restraints of the system and, despite the many disabled people across our country.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

A long time ago for Alec

I NOTE there is to be another Star Wars film soon with the return of many of the original cast. Sad that Alec Guinness can't be amongst them.

I remember getting Alec's signature on a picture from the Express & Star, which I sent him in 2000, just before his death. I was told, but I forget by whom, that if writing to him and requesting an autograph, not to mention Star Wars. I didn't and he sent me the autograph.

To this day I still don't know what would have happened if I had mentioned it.
I PAYNE
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Footman James puts glitzy car on show



The 1931 Cadillac Fleetwood Drop Head Coupe featuring 23.7 carat gold leaf clad bodywork

THE stand from Dudley-based Footman James at The Classic Motor Show will feature a glitzy car reputed to have once been owned by the entertainer Liberace. The specialist motor insurance broker has secured a 1931 Cadillac Fleetwood Drop Head Coupe featuring 23.7 carat gold leaf clad bodywork, silver external door handles and 24ct gold-plated internal door handles, to wow the crowds at the show at the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre from November 13 to 15. In the 1970s the car was owned by a Jack Smith from Kansas who spent three years making it even more flamboyant; his efforts included dazzling white leather upholstery.

Life-saving gear donated

THREE life-saving defibrillators have been donated to a hospice charity in the Midlands.

Acorns Children's Hospice will house the three automated external defibrillators at its three sites in Walstead Road, Walsall, Selly Oak and Worcester.

They will be used in the emergency

resuscitation of adults experiencing a cardiac arrest. Two of the machines have been donated by Carillion and the other by West Midlands Ambulance Service, which will also be offering free training to Acorns' staff and volunteers.

Community response manager Andy Jeaynes said: "It was a fantastic coincidence that Carillion contacted me to ask whether we had a use for two defibrillators as it came just a few days

after Ben McFadzean, an Acorns volunteer, had asked about the possibility of getting some defibs at their three sites. The quicker you start CPR and shock a patient in cardiac arrest with a defibrillator, the better the chance they have of surviving."

Acorns provides a network of specialist palliative nursing care and support to babies, children and youngsters aged up to 18 who have life-limiting or life-threatening conditions.

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Jaydon's roll as a leading gymnast



Jaydon Paddock, who hopes to be a tumbling champion
A TALENTED gymnast has tumbled his way into the World Championships – and hopes to secure much needed funding to help him achieve his dream.

Jaydon Paddock, aged 14, became a British champion in the gymnastics discipline of tumbling – featuring breath-taking flips and somersaults – during a recent competition.

His achievement has helped him be selected for the Great Britain team which will travel to compete in the World Championships between December 2 and 6, held in Odense, Denmark. But because the event is not yet an Olympic sport he has to source his own funding to allow him to compete.

The youngster, who lives in Wednesbury, has already been backed by businesses which have helped donate £1,000 to help.

However he still needs to find £1,020 towards the costs of travelling out to Scandinavia for the competition.

It costs £335 to attend the squad training camp, £121 to enter the World Championships, £302 for flights and transfers, around £430 for the GB kit and £810 for accommodation. Anyone who can help with sponsorship is asked to call her father Tye on 07702 160247 or Councillor Costigan on 07891 196199.

Funeral charges to rise in borough

BURIAL and cremation fees will rise by up to 10 per cent in Walsall in a bid to generate an extra £125,000 a year.

Walsall Council is also looking to raise cash from other bereavement services including providing light refreshments at Streetly Crematorium. The authority also wants to bring in £10,000 via a wider range of memorials.

By Heather Large

It comes as council chiefs bid to make £25 million in cuts and savings in 2016/17.

Mourners could face the increase in burial and cremation charges from April next year if the proposals are approved.

At the moment it costs £1,815 for an exclusive right of burial at the cemeteries in Bentley, Bloxwich, James Bridge, North Walsall, Ryecroft, Streetly and Willenhall. But bosses are proposing the fee is increased by three per cent, which works out as £1,870.

While cremation charges would increase by 10 per cent which could see the fee for an over-17 rise from £657 to £723. The council also believes it can bring in £1,000 a year by offering visitors refreshments at Streetly crematorium.

Walsall's community, leisure and culture chief, Councillor Anthony Harris said: "This is one of numerous measures that the council is considering to balance the budget for 2016/17.

"The proposed fee increases although regretful will keep Walsall Council broadly in line with neighbouring Black Country local authorities.

"We will continue to improve our facilities as we have done at Streetly and are now actively looking to extend Willenhall Lawn Cemetery to create additional burial space."

Earlier this year, opening hours were extended at Streetly Cemetery to allow for 10 extra burials a week and for funerals to take place on bank holidays.



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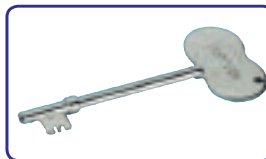
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Couple steel away to live their golden years

THEY met in a Bilston steel factory and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on a cruise across the Mediterranean.

Norman and Pat Kempson, from Willenhall, were treated to a surprise party attended by more than 100 of their friends and family before setting off on their cruise.

The couple met at Bilston steelworks site Stewart and Lloyds after leaving school, with Mr Kempson, now 72, working as an apprentice while his wife, now 71, worked in the office.

Their relationship as distant colleagues soon grew into something stronger, as they got talking over staff dinners held at the Spring Vale social club.

Mr Kempson said: "All the apprentices and the office workers used to sit together at dinner time and we just naturally got talking. We got on well and so that led to us going out to the pictures, doing all of the usual things you do."

"I was living in Fordhouses and she was living in Sedgley at the time, so there was a good distance between us."

"Her family obviously wanted to make sure she was safe so I had to get the bus to her house, pick her up, go out, take her back and then try and get the last bus home. I would often end up walking back, but it was always worth it."

The couple dated for around four years before Mr Kempson popped the question, and they married two years later.

They have one daughter, Jackie, 39, and two grandchildren, Kyan, eight and Rhiannon, five.

Mr Kempson, who is secretary at the Willenhall Trinity Bowls Club, said compromise and sharing are the reasons behind his long lasting marriage with Pat.



Norman and Pat Kempson of Willenhall



The happy couple on their big day

Family sought by council

COUNCIL officers are trying to trace the family of a 67-year-old man who died in Walsall.

Environmental health officers are keen to get in touch with any relatives of Raymond Francis who died in St Giles Hospice, Gosport. Mr Francis lived at 1 Basalt Close, Bentley Lane, Walsall, and was born on November 7, 1947. He is believed to have had a partner that lived in London.

Neil Harris, principal environmental health officer, said: "We would

like to pass on our condolences to Mr Francis's family and friends.

"We would be grateful to hear from any relatives of Mr Francis or anyone who might have helpful information about his family so that they can make proper arrangements for his funeral. We appreciate this may be difficult but we encourage anyone with information they think may be useful to get in touch."

Anyone with information is asked to call 01922 653052.

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May she be the winner of pageant



May Parry, who is celebrating after winning a place in the grand final of an international beauty pageant

A SCHOOLGIRL has won the chance to represent England at the grand finals of a global beauty contest being held at Disneyland Paris next year.

May Parry, of Bloxwich, became the overall junior winner of the North West heats at the Face Of The Globe pageant in Manchester.

The 10-year-old, who also took the title of Miss Charity and Miss Personality in her junior age category, will now jet off to Paris in April where she will represent England in the grand finals.

The Lower Farm Primary School pupil has so far raised more than £700 for the Rainbow Child Foundation by holding cake sales at venues around Walsall.

During the regional heats she also had to answer questions on stage at the Portland Hotel before finding out the good news and being rewarded with a sash and crown.

Her mother Maria Parry, aged 40, who works as an administrator, said: "It went really well in Manchester."

"She was over the moon and I'm really proud of her."

She said the grand finals would be a week-long event, held between London and Disneyland.

May will be taking part in a pageant masterclass and a fitness camp day with former X Factor star Chico Slimani before travelling to Disneyland Paris.

The youngster is also organising a charity entertainment evening in aid of the Rainbow Child Foundation at the Gunners Club, in Beeches Road, Walsall, on January 23.

Dementia sufferers to receive assistance

A NEW £500,000 service designed to support people with dementia will be launched in Walsall soon.

The Pathways 4 Life service, which is provided by the Accord Group and Age UK, has employed six new 'personal assistants' for people coping with dementia after being funded by the Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group.

The personal assistants will help people who have just been given a memory assessment service, which is carried out on people with suspected dementia.

Those who are told they have the condition following the assessment will be given support by the new personal assistants for 12 weeks.

They will work alongside existing services in the town, such as dementia cafes, to offer free support to people from diagnosis until they are given access to other forms of support.

As well as this, they will also assist people with the more practical aspects of adjusting to life with the condition so life can prepare for the future.

Nicole Beeching, head of service development at the Accord Group, said: "The approach to dealing with people with dementia has changed over recent years and we now care that is 'needs-led' and not 'provider-led'. We recognise that everyone with dementia, no matter what stage they are at, has varying needs."

By Jordan Harris

"Focusing on the person with dementia, their carer and their family's individual overall needs is our number one priority. These new roles will do just that and we are delighted to be able to offer more ongoing support across Walsall."

"Each personal assistant will work to person-centred principles, recognising that everyone is different and therefore we support an individualised and person-centred approach."

Four of the six assistants have now been appointed and began work on October 1. Pathways 4 Life offers a range of services across Walsall, including seven dementia cafes, offering people with dementia and their families the opportunity to meet, share experiences and access other support.

Last month, calls for dementia patients to be kept on a separate ward at Walsall Manor hospital amid complaints they are being too noisy at night were met with a mixed response.

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Stringing together instruments plea



Co-ordinator Warren Wong and youth support worker Christine Shepherd appealing for more instruments

A COMMUNITY centre for young people is appealing for donations of unwanted instruments to give them a new lease of life.

Staff at the My Place youth zone in Walstead Road West are appealing for instruments of all different shapes and sizes as part of their Big Music Project – an initiative to help get young people interested in the music industry.

From guitars to ukuleles, they have already received a number of generous donations. But senior area youth worker for My Place, Julie Hill, is hoping more people will wipe the dust off their old set of strings and hand them

over to a new home. She said: “The idea is essentially an instrument amnesty. We have had quite a few already donated but we are hoping to get more in. We’ve currently got drums, guitars, the more common instruments but now we’ve got trumpets and ukuleles. It would be great to get some more unusual instruments in.

“The project initially started through the Big Music Project funding but unfortunately our funding was cut but we’re still carrying on with the idea every Thursday, from 7pm.”

“We just want to bring young people together to sing, play instruments

and what we try to do is get the more experienced youngsters to mentor the other young people who might not be quite as confident at playing.”

The instruments that My Place have already had donated are all in full working order but they will still accept something that might be broken so it can be restored. The centre provides a wide range of services.

These include education programmes and groups that let young people make new friends, as well as one-to-one work. To donate old instruments or find out more about My Place call 01922 655419.

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STAY WELL THIS WINTER

Keeping those ailments at bay

Winter conditions can be seriously bad for our health, especially for people aged 65 or older and people with long-term conditions.

The cold and damp weather, ice, snow and high winds can all aggravate any existing health problems and make us more vulnerable to illnesses that are more common in winter.

Being cold can raise the risk of increased blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes. But there are lots of things you can do to stay well this winter.

Feeling unwell?

Don't wait – get advice from your nearest pharmacist. Winter can make existing health problems worse. So if you feel like you're coming down with something, even if it's just a cough or a cold, don't wait until it gets worse. Act quickly. Pharmacists are fully qualified to advise you on the best course of action.

Is your medicine cabinet ready for the winter?

Most common winter ailments, such as a cold, sore throat, cough, sinusitis or middle ear infection, can't be treated with antibiotics. The best thing to do is:

- Rest
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Have at least one hot meal a day to keep your energy levels up
- Talk to your pharmacist for advice on getting any pain relief you need such as paracetamol or ibuprofen.

Take medicines as directed

If you've been prescribed antibiotics or any other medication, make sure you take them as directed.

Make sure you get your flu jab

The flu virus strikes in winter and it can be far more serious than you think. That's why the flu jab is free if you're aged 65 or over. Just speak to your GP.

A MAJOR drive to help people stay well this winter has been launched by Public Health England and NHS England.

The NHS Stay Well This Winter campaign is urging people aged 65 or over, or those with long-term health conditions, such as diabetes, stroke, heart disease or respiratory illness, to prepare for winter with advice on how to ward off common illnesses.

The campaign is asking the public to:

- If you start to feel unwell, even if it's just a cough or a cold, then get help from your pharmacist quickly before it gets more serious.
- Make sure you get your flu jab if eligible.

- Keep yourself warm – heat your home to least 18C or (65F) if you can.

- Make sure you get your prescription medicines before pharmacies close on Christmas Eve.

- Always take your prescribed medicines as directed.

The Stay Well This Winter campaign will make sure that people have the information they need to help them look after themselves this winter and also to know the



Pharmacists are fully qualified to advise you on the best treatment



The campaign is urging people to prepare for winter

best place to go for urgent advice, whether that's their local pharmacy, NHS Choices, NHS phone number 111 or accident and emergency.

As in previous years the flu vaccine programme is an important part of this campaign.

The adult flu vaccine will be offered free to those in groups at

particular risk of infection and complications from flu including those aged 65 or over, those aged under 65 with long-term health conditions, pregnant women and carers.

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This year, for the first time, all our youngest primary school children will be eligible to receive the free

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Parents are encouraged to complete consent forms in order to allow immunisation teams to administer the nasal spray flu vaccine to their children.

For those children in areas where the vaccination is not offered through schools, they will be offered the vaccination at their local GP or pharmacy.

Are you 65 or over?

If you feel like you're getting a cough or a cold, get advice from your pharmacist before it gets more serious.

STAY WELL THIS WINTER

nhs.uk/staywell

NHS



Sanjay Ganvir, Pharmacist

Darcie's song and dance success



Hoping to be on Britain's Got Talent, Darcie Harpur, aged five, of New Invention, who is a singer and dancer

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD girl from Willenhall has made it through the first two preliminary rounds of Britain's Got Talent and is now in the running to be featured in the hit ITV show.

Darcie Harpur, of New Invention, wowed a panel of judges at Birmingham's ICC with a song and dance routine and got through to the next stage of the talent competition. The Cheslyn Hay Primary School pupil sang the song Naughty from Matilda the Musical.

Her mother Francesca Harpur, aged 26, said: "There were around 1,200 people who went to the ICC."

"We had to stand in a long queue to register and we were sat around for a couple of hours before Darcie went into a room with two judges. She sang and did a dance similar to what they do in the West End. They said it was amazing how much confidence she had for a five-year-old."

Darcie also attends DanceXtreme Midlands Academy in Willenhall. Miss Harpur added: "She's really taken to the dancing. I'm so proud of her. She hasn't shut up about getting through. She loves Simon Cowell."

HomeServe signs five year deal with Aviva

WALSALL-BASED HomeServe has teamed up with insurance group Aviva to overhaul its home assistance service.

The five-year agreement between the businesses will run from November 18. Aviva will underwrite the range of home assistance products provided by HomeServe – the UK's second largest provider of home assistance policies.

Aviva's UK general insurance business has signed the agreement with HomeServe which has been providing home assistance for more than 20 years.

Aviva will be responsible for evaluating the chance, or risk, of making a claim. HomeServe will retain the claims handling, repairs and sales and service and customers may not notice any change.

HomeServe recently announced the purchase of major gas service and repair business, Home Energy Services, creating a combined network of 600 directly-employed specialist engineers.

Aviva is the leading general insurer in the UK and insures one in 10 households. Its chief executive for UK general insurance and chairman Maurice Tulloch

By John Corser

said: "I'm delighted Aviva has secured a new long term partnership with HomeServe – especially as this comes just a few months after we announced a new seven-year relationship as exclusive provider of general insurance products to TSB customers."

"A broken boiler or a home damaged by water as a result of leaking pipes is a traumatic event for any household. Insurance is designed to protect what matters when things go wrong – and acting quickly to minimise the impact is crucial."

Martin Bennett, chief executive of HomeServe UK, said: "Our recent acquisition of Home Energy Services has enabled us to become a significant force in the heating market."

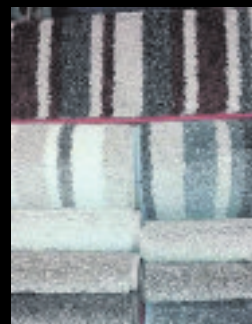
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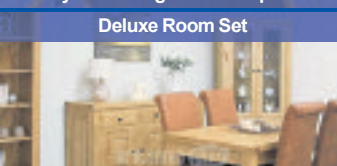
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Gardening trials and tribulations

Shareshill WI

PRESIDENT Margaret Bed DARD welcomed everyone, especially three new members and three visitors.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the Skittles party last month. Margaret also thanked members who helped out and supported the coffee morning at the church when £320 was raised for the Wolverhampton Stroke Association.

Ten members attended the Spring Council meeting and were entertained by Lydia Slack with an hilarious account of life on a Derbyshire farm as a teenager with parents suffering mid-life crisis. In the afternoon Michael Portillo gave a fascinating insight into his former life as a politician and Minister in Margaret Thatcher's government and, after he lost his seat in Parliament, how he became a television presenter of seven series of Great Train Journeys programmes.

Speaker Graham White talked about trials and tribulations of creating a garden from virtually a field. When he and his family moved to Uttoxeter 24 years ago the garden was just a large L-shaped piece of grassland bordered by a steep bank and stream. Graham, his wife Judy and their three teenage sons set about turning it into the beautiful garden it is today.

It took them 17 years of dedicated work and they now participate in the National Gardens Scheme having over the last six years raised more than £40,000 for charities such as MacMillan and Marie Curie.

Diamond theme for 60th birthday year

Ladies learn about Nomads of Kenya

Coven WI

OCTOBER was a busy month for Coven WI, primarily because on October 6 the group hosted the Ringhills Group meeting. Speaker Keith Jones presented Nomads of Kenya and proved to be a knowledgeable speaker with eloquent delivery.

Keith is a skilled professional photographer and his work has been published worldwide. Now semi-retired he offers varied talks using digital projection.

Nomads of Kenya is based on his book Shepherds of the Desert and the group was taken on an extraordinary journey into the regions of Africa, learning about the amazing lifestyle of the nomadic tribes which have existed for thousands of years and how they have survived by adapting and diversifying.

There was a table of nomadic artefacts to peruse. This was followed by a tea of homemade cakes and sandwiches, and a raffle concluded the evening. On October 13, four members were lucky to hear Michael Portillo speak at the autumn Council meeting. The same evening Coven members welcomed back Theresa Burrows who presented ribbon craft and soap pomander. A raffle and refreshments followed. Long-standing member Gwen was celebrating her 80th birthday.

On Remembrance Sunday, the group will provide refreshments at the Memorial Hall and on November 10 at 7.30pm they will welcome David Wilkinson who will present Chartley Castle, where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned.

Wolverhampton Flower Arrangement Club

CHAIRMAN Mrs Maureen Cooper welcomed members and guests the monthly meeting at Linden House, Tettenhall Road.

National Demonstrator Lorena Dyer of Coventry gave as her theme Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend in celebration of the club's diamond anniversary year.

In all Lorena produced 10 arrangements which were raffled to raise money for the club. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Sarah Osborne and the welcome door arrangement was by Hansa Patel.

The club will meet next on the third Thursday in November and will then move to Codsall Village Hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm.

The first meeting at Codsall will take place on December 8 at 2.30pm, giving people the chance to look over the new premises and enjoy free tea, coffee and mince pies and browse the sales tables.

Anyone interested in joining is welcome to come along for free in December or call the secretary on 01902 762098.

Traditions of festive period

THE next meeting is on Thursday, November 12 at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street.

The speaker will be Mary Bodfish, a favourite with local history groups and chairman of Smethwick Local History Society.

Mary's illustrated talk follows the traditions and customs of the festive season through the ages. Along the way there

Sedgley Local History Society

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As usual visitors are invited, admission is £1. Annual membership costs £5 and gives free access to the programme of talks.

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Cadets playing the blues after theft



From left, Sgt Josie Bates, Cpl Louis Kil-Brown, Flying Officer Laura Horobin and Cpl Filip Jedruszkiewicz

YOUNG air cadets due to lead a Remembrance Day parade have been left distressed after thieves stole the trailer that carries their instruments.

Now, the Staffordshire Wing Air Training Corps band has sent out a Mayday following the break-in at their Aldridge headquarters. Band members are appealing for the loan of a trailer, or similar transport, to get them to the Armistice Day service on Sunday in their hometown. Two weeks later they also need to get to RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire where the band has won through to a national final.

Raiders broke into their Station

Road base earlier this month and stole the £700 aluminium trailer which is used for transporting drums and other band equipment to local events. The cadets undertake more than a dozen community engagements every year.

They have a minibus but cannot fit their equipment on board.

Group leader, Flying Officer Laura Horobin, said: "We feel honoured to lead the parade but without transport, it is going to make travelling very difficult. We will have to make two trips – one taking the band, one with the instruments – every time we play anywhere."

The 425 Aldridge Squadron ATC has no funds available to hire or buy replacement transport. The stolen trailer had been donated by the Sedgley squadron when they were given a new one. The transport was invaluable for carrying the band's bulky, heavy instruments, including bass drums, snare drums and bell lyres.

Around a dozen cadets, aged between 12 and 20, play in the band and they were thrilled to have got through to the national final at RAF Halton, representing the West and Wales. Anyone who wants to help, can contact the group on 07968033021.

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Alex's legacy, as sister Rachel raises £12,000

A WOMAN has raised more than £12,000 for charity after her brother died of Sudden Adult Death Syndrome.

Now, in her latest round of fund-raising, Rachel Dingle is looking to raise enough money to have defibrillators put around Wolverhampton in her brother Alex's favourite places.

Alex Brown, aged 25, died suddenly on April 7 this year after collapsing in the garden of the home he had just moved into with his girlfriend.

She had gone out to play netball and found him collapsed in the garden when she returned.

Since then Rachel, 30, of Burntwood, her family and Alex's friends and girlfriend Rebecca Marshall have been raising money for Cardiac Risk in the Young, also known as CRY.

Various fundraisers have taken place throughout this year including a charity football match and a charity rugby match between Alex's Dragons and Lichfield All-stars.

Undiagnosed

Rachel said: "Ever since April we have been trying to raise money for Cardiac Risk in the Young. What we have found since we started is that Some 12 to 13 people a week in the UK die of undiagnosed heart conditions.

"Heart screening is free in a number of countries but not on the NHS here in England.

"Sudden Adult Death Syndrome can happen to anyone. People don't think it will happen to them until it does. There's not enough awareness of it.

"I want to place some defibrillators around some of Alex's favourite spots; such as East Park, Tettenhall, Rowley Regis. To leave a legacy, it's what he would have wanted. He worked in mental health, he was so caring and fit and healthy. He died 10 days before



Rachel Dingle has set up a charity called Cardiac Risk in the Young

my first daughter was born and I know he was really looking forward to being an uncle."

Growing up it was just Alex, Rebecca and their mother, so Alex gave the father of the bride speech at Rebecca's wedding.

A tribute to Alex, from East Park, Wolverhampton, on his JustGiving page said: "Alex certainly was a character, He was the absolute love of my

life, he was a fantastic son, a 'big' little brother and was soon to become an uncle. He was the life and soul of every party and could make a room full of strangers his best friends."

Those wishing to donate to Alex's legacy can do so at <https://www.justgiving.com/remember/193809/Alex-Brown> and for details on CRY see <http://www.c-r-y.org.uk/>

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North Street, which could be accessed by an alley from Paternoster Row



Red Lion Street where the Perry family lived



Tony Perry as a young boy playing with his friends in Red Lion Street

All the world's a stage – or at least the back garden at No3!

I WAS about four when we moved house to Red Lion Street. In the 1950s this was longer than now. Where the 1960s Telephone Exchange extension stands there was a block of houses, Nos 1 to 4, let to council tenants.

Another block of four, fronted on to an alley, with a cemetery for St Peter and St Paul's Catholic Church and a pair of semi-detached houses.

The alley led, as Paternoster Row, up the hill, to North Street. Past the cemetery was a final block of four houses before the junction with Wadham's Hill, where the Ring Road is now at a lower level. The houses were built in 1926, as shown by date plaques with the Wolverhampton Corporation Coat of Arms.

Our house was No 2, and a high privet hedge above a low brick wall hid a small front garden with tulips, daffodils and nasturtiums. At the end of the tunnel entry you reached the backs of numbers 2 and 3, where the gardens were at a higher level, reached by steps. My

MEMORY LANE

By Tony Perry

best friend in these years was Geoffrey Leo. Although he lived at Wednesfield, his grandparents, Mr & Mrs Wythe, resided at No 3, and his mother or father would bring him to Red Lion Street regularly.

The family's business was making and selling ice cream. Other friends of ours in the street were John Hendley at No 5, Sally Eades at No 6, replaced by a younger Sally Ormerod, Paul Makin at No 7, Lesley at No 10, Jane at No 12, Patrick Greatrix at No 13 (my next best friend after Geoff), and later on Jimmy and David Silcock at No 14.

John, a lifelong Wolves expert and supporter, was to become in later years a folk singer and successful co-ordinator of folk clubs in the area.

Paul was an actor, before becoming a successful script-writer of television comedies. He sadly died of a brain tumour at the age of 54. Patrick ran a popular hardware

business in Wolverhampton. In the 1950s playing in the street was second nature, and we had the imagination to make up different games, dramas and shows, mimicking the stars seen on television or in films. The raised back garden of No 3 might be a stage, with Geoff's younger brother John using the inside part of a punch-ball as a microphone, belting out Frank Ifield's "I Remember You".

Fever

Play would often take place in the alley, and occasionally stray over the wall into the Catholic Cemetery.

However, any parents hearing us would order us out, with the dire threat that we would "catch the fever" in there. No one ever explained what fever, and how it could be caught. It was another world – a wilderness of overgrown trees and bushes hiding old gravestones – certainly a good place for adventure.

● From Of the River People by Anthony Perry (Brewin Books, £9.95), available at Ashwoods, Tettenhall Post Office, Archives at Molineux House, Mogul Diamonds, St Peter's Church and other bookshops.



Red Lion Street in recent times at its corner with Mitre Fold

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We say miserable we're in Wolver-happy-ton

PEOPLE in Wolverhampton are miserable? Pull the other one! That's the verdict of those living in the city.

Another survey is out – and it makes grim reading for those who call Wolves home.

The new study, by thinktank The Legatum Institute, measured average income per person with how happy they feel.

Wolverhampton came bottom out of 170 places in the UK for life satisfaction – apparently making its people the most miserable. But on the bustling streets of the city centre people couldn't be happier.

And they said it's not money but spending time with family and friends that makes you cheery.

The region's comedians have also chipped in, saying shows in Wolverhampton are always a highlight.

Busy folk were happy chatting to friends working on stalls as the sound of steel drums playing in the background carried through the air.

Linda Flavell, aged 49, from Perton, was shopping in the city with her daughter Kirsty Gillett, 24, and grandchildren Evie-Leigh, four, and one-year-old Harry.

And even the mere mention of being miserable had Linda laughing. "You must be joking," she said. "I think that's terrible."

"We have got a good sense of humour. We have got manners, we smile – well, that's what I've always done anyway!"

Administrator Gerald Starr raised a smile, with a wry grin, about life in the city. The 43-year-old from Bushbury said: "We're a happy bunch in Wolverhampton. Whoever came up with this survey saying we are miserable is utterly clueless."

Youth worker Christian Darby issued a plea for those who penned the



Linda Flavell, 49, from Perton



Gerald Starr from Bushbury



Youth worker Christian Darby



Former Glaswegian Scott Reid

survey to visit the city and hear the humour.

The 23-year-old, from Waddens Brook Lane, Wednesfield, said: "People may see this city as boring or miserable because people don't take the time out to come here."

And it is not just born-and-bred folk

who think the city is a happy place to raise a family. Father-of-three Scott Reid came down from Glasgow to make his life in the city more than 20 years ago.

The 48-year-old said he disagreed with the survey, adding: "Wolverhampton has got a lot going for it."

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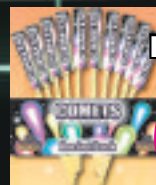
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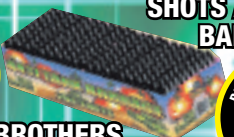
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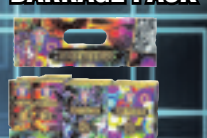
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Only Josh-ing for great fun in Brum

Josh Widdicombe, Town Hall, Birmingham
MATTERS conspired against us in getting to the second city for the start of this gig. Congestion on the roads, parking problems – and all on a Sunday night. So we were in need of some comic relief when we finally arrived.

Thanks goodness Josh Widdicombe provided it.

Mind you, when I told my other half we had tickets for a curly-haired enter-

tainer in Birmingham that night, she was expecting to see Jess Glynne, who was performing elsewhere in the city.

She wasn't so hard on herself when she realised it was the Devonian funniman.

He's been away from the touring scene for a while, but hasn't been short of television and radio work. And he wasn't bereft of material either.

In a show called What Do I Do Now? he was able to reveal some of

the things that annoyed him, like his schooldays and a fear of flying.

He also gave his take on why James Bond doesn't drink real ale.

Widdicombe even revealed he has his own sitcom coming up, called, inspiringly, Josh, which he insists he was requested to mention to his audience. It was all good fun, even if the two behind us probably found it a bit too funny.

Mark Shipp

Babajack's big bundle of blues

Babajack Robin2, Wolverhampton
WHEN you see the way Babajack let rip as they did in the Bilston venue you realise how they became the British Blues Award winners.

Singer Becky Tate is sexy, sassy and a real live wire with her hips swaying and her wild auburn hair swishing madly about as she plays the cajon and sings. On top of that she has a really cool voice.

She was on stage with drummer Tosh Murase, bass guitarist Adam Bertenshaw and the incredibly blues infused dude, Trevor Steger on cigar box guitar and harmonica.

The only disappointing part was there were only about 30 people there to enjoy the gig, but enjoy it they did.

They opened with a thumping version of The Money's All Gone from their Rooster album with Murase hammering out the beat before Steger's goboron came in like a steam train. Babajack are definitely a band best enjoyed live.

Danny Farragher

REVIEWS



Seth Lakeman on stage at the Robin2, Wolverhampton. Pic Danny Farragher

Lakeman shows how many strings there are to his bow

Seth Lakeman The Robin2, Wolverhampton

SETH Lakeman walked into a seriously warm welcome from the fans packed into Robin2.

Joined on stage by his fellow Full English band member Ben Nicholls, drummer Cormac Byrne and guitarist and banjo player Jack Rutter Lakeman started as he meant to go on, full of energy.

As usual Lakeman came with a bucket load of instruments, none of which went to waste.

He kicked off with the high energy Courier from his latest album, Word of Mouth,

his fiddle from the start doing 20 to the dozen. Lakeman mixed up his set, trawling to resurrect earlier songs.

This was followed by Take No Rogues from his Freedom Fields album.

He then pulled out a broadside from Frank Kidson, Stand By Your Guns before going into the incredibly emotive Shores of Normandy, written by Jim Radford for the anniversary of the D-Day Landings.

Lakeman put on a show full of energy and gave the crowd what they love, watching him hammer his fiddle like he was trying to start a fire.

Danny Farragher

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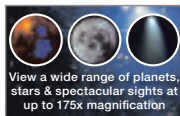
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Folk star Ange

Interview – Page 27



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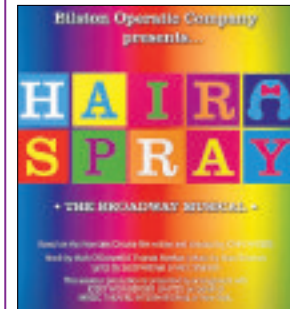
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Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Goggie Ifill And Bethan Jones
Sat at 10.30am,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Cor Glanaethwy
Sat at 7pm, £17.50 - £35
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO 2015-16 Winter Dreams
Wed at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Stourport-On-Severn Brass Band
Fri at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX. Call 01562 743745

Nathaniel Vallois And David Quigley
Fri at 1.10pm, Free
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

John Wilson And The John Wilson Orchestra
Thu at 7.30pm - 9.30pm, £25 - £46
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Bach Doubled With Tamsin Waley-Cohen And David Le Page
Wed at 2.30pm - 4.30pm, £8.50 - £23.50
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

British Carnatic Choir Grand Premiere
Sat at 6pm, £12 - £18
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

Katie Stillman & Simon Lane: Bromsgrove Concerts 2015/16
Fri at 8pm,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

CBSO 2015-16 - A Young Person's Guide To The Orchestra
Sun at 2.30pm, £10
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Les Ballets Trockadero De Monte Carlo
Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, Wed at 2pm - 4.30pm, 7.30pm - 10pm, £15 - £34.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Shakespeare Schools Festival
Mon at 7pm,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Rock' N 'Roll To Broadway
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

Dr Jekyll And Mr Hyde
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

Les Miserables: A West Bromwich Operatic Society
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Brummegem Pals
Sat at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

'Allo 'Allo
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Lord Of The Flies
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm, 7.30pm, £8.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Hairspray: Bilston Operatic Company
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £8.50 - £19
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Brave New World
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £10.50 - £25.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Jesus Christ Superstar
Fri at 7.30pm - 10pm, Sat at 2pm - 5pm, 7.30pm - 10pm, £20 - £42.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

Kevin Bridges: A Whole Different Story
Fri at 8pm, £28.80
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Nina Conti: In Your Face
Wed at 8pm, £18.50
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Harry Enfield & Paul Whitehouse: Legends!
Sat at 7.30pm, £32.50 - £41.25
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Stephen K Amos: The Laughter Master
Wed at 7.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Jim Davidson: Charlton Nil
Sun at 7.30pm, £23.50 - £26.40
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Tue at 7.30pm, £23.50 - £26.40
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Thu at 7.30pm, £23.50 - £26.40
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Festival Of The Spoken Nerd: Just For Graps
Thu at 8pm, £13 - £15
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Jimmy Carr: Funny Business
Fri at 8pm, £25
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Coleridge trail left Ange in Esteesees

By Danny Farragher
WE'RE all guilty of missing the history on our doorstep.

Often other people point out what's interesting or historic about what we pass by every day.

This happened to folk singer Ange Hardy in a spectacular way.

What is remarkable is not just that she was unaware of one of world's most famous romantic poets, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, literally being under her nose but also the way she addressed the shortfall in her knowledge.

Hardy lives in a little village just outside Watchet, Somerset which is about half way along The Coleridge Way, a trail the poet famed for such epics as The Rime of the Ancient Mariner and Kubla Khan walked. She however was blissfully unaware of the significance of the route.

"I think having left school really early and my past of running away and being out of the education circles from about 13 onwards I was just never in the right place or with the right people to learn about Coleridge.

"I didn't even realise Coleridge was a he, I thought it was just the name of the walk. So I really had no idea at all."

The idea then of basing her new album Esteesees - which is how the poet liked to sign himself, on him and his works seem even more bizarre.

"My husband came up with the idea. He started talking about Coleridge and said I should write a song about him."

The idea then formed into an entire album in Hardy's mind, "It was



Ange Hardy will be performing her new album in Birmingham

a huge risk," she admits. What lay ahead for the acclaimed singer/songwriter was a massive cramming session.

"I spent about two weeks with my head buried in books from morning to night and listening to readings. Then I just pieced together all the bits that

inspired me." Ange Hardy is performing songs from Esteesees at the Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham on Monday November 9. The show starts 8pm and tickets are £9 in advance or £11 on the night. Visit www.kitchengardencafe.co.uk and www.angehardy.com

Fireworks promised



IT promises to be an explosive bonfire night in Bilston tonight as rock band Snakecharmer provide the fireworks.

The supergroup, made up of former members from the likes of Whitesnake, Wishbone Ash and Magnum, perform at the Robin 2 in Mount Pleasant.

The band is made up of six of the UK's most highly-esteemed and experienced rock musicians.

Original Whitesnake guitarist Micky Moody and bandmate, bassist Neil Murray, teamed up with Laurie Wisefield (Wishbone Ash guitarist), Thunder and Magnum drummer

"They're the genuine article"

Harry James (Thunder, Magnum), Adam Wakeman, who played keyboards and acoustic guitar for Ozzy Osbourne) and Black Sabbath and Heartland vocalist Chris Ousey.

They perform classic twin-guitar based rock. A spokesman for the band said: "With a live set comprising material from their critically-acclaimed Snakecharmer album, coupled with such Whitesnake classics as Ready And Willing, Fool For Your Loving,

Take Me With You, Walking In The Shadow Of The Blues and Here I Go Again, Snakecharmer is the genuine article."

Snakecharmer are currently writing for the follow up to their self-titled debut album. Tonight's concert is the only chance to see the supergroup locally as they also perform in Sheffield, Glasgow, Newcastle, London and Cardiff during the nine-date tour. Call 0844 477 2000.

Funnyman Kevin bridges the gap

IT'S comedy central in Birmingham this week as a number of top acts perform.

Scottish funnyman Kevin Bridges sets the ball rolling with his brand new show, A Whole Different Story, at the Barclaycard Arena tomorrow night (Friday).

Also on at the Barclaycard Arena, on Saturday, will be Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse.

Elsewhere in the city, Bridges will vie for top billing with Jimmy Carr tomorrow night as he plays the Symphony Hall.

He will be followed by ventriloquist Nina Conti who is at the Town Hall on November 11.

When comedy and ballet mix

THE boys are back in town... in size 12 pointe shoes. Hurling through the classical ballet repertoire with their inimitable blend of skill, grace and wit, Les Ballet Trockadero de Monte carol perform at Birmingham Hippodrome next week.

Enjoy show-stopping Swan Lake (Act II), Merce Cunningham-inspired Patterns in Space, Go For Barocco, a satire on Balanchine's choreography, and the delightful Don Quixote on Tuesday and Wednesday (November 10 and 11).

For the Tuesday show there is a chance to attend a post-show question and answer session given by troupe members.

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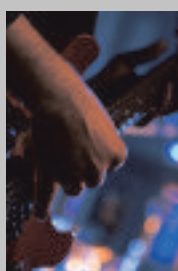
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Express & Star

Reid all about it as twins top bill

TWIN brothers Craig and Charlie Reid will have Birmingham rocking when they perform at the New Alexandra Theatre this weekend.

The duo have tasted huge success around the globe with the likes of Letter From America, Sunshine on Leith and I'm Gonna Be) 500 Miles, enjoying gold and platinum singles and albums in UK, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand in the process. They perform on Sunday (November 8).

The second city also plays host to 80s legends ABC the following evening at the Symphony Hall.

The Institute hosts Twenty One Pilots on Monday and Nell Bryden the next night.



The traditional chicken red curry is the county's best



Mini money bags – the duck dim sum



The chicken satay was a favourable way to start the feast



Fine dining – raise a glass to quality Thai food

Chef Suree's a winner as King and Thai retains its number one crown

THAI cook Suree Coates is one of Shropshire's most decorated chefs, having been named the **UK Thai Chef of the Year** a couple of years back and then bettering that by being crowned the **Asian Chef of the Year**.

More recently, her qualities have been recognised by The Good Food Guide, where inclusion is hard to come by; in Shropshire, only seven restaurants feature.

The King & Thai in Broseley is listed in that as a Local Gem and deserving of inclusion. Suree is one of the county's best. Arguably her greatest ability is to fashion exciting and exotic flavours that are deep, rich and rewarding.

Her freshly-made sauces and pastes are heavenly. She learned how to make them while growing up in her native Thailand,

By Andy Richardson

where she used a pestle and mortar to combine freshly-picked herbs and aromats. She uses the same techniques to this day – and it shows. Suree offers dishes that offer the same flavours that you'd find in downtown Phitsanulok. Her flavours are vibrant and subtle; explosive and entertaining. She's a crackerjack cook who has as good an understanding of Asian seasonings as any chef in the county.

My friend and I have eaten at The King & Thai frequently. For this critic's shilling, it remains the county's number one; with Ludlow's Chang Thai Bar and Shrewsbury's recently-opened Aroi Thai not far behind. Suree moves ahead of her good-but-not-better rivals on most fronts: principally presentation, innovation and flavour.

When we arrived, the helpful and bubbly

waitress showed us through to the dining room. It was festooned with Buddhas, colourful photographs and other Thai ephemera. The menu featured the normal Thai classics in addition to numerous specials. Starters include a duck dim sum with plum sauce. Alongside that was a Thai custard, served in a mini pumpkin, with prawns.

My friend opted for the duck dim sum while I ordered chicken satay. Both were delicious. The dim sum – some crunchy-fried and some soft-and-steamed – were light and boldly seasoned. The plum sauce was swirled concentrically across the plate and provided a balanced accompaniment.

The satay was brilliant. My friend and I swapped dim sum for satay in an impromptu game of Thai mix'n match.

We thought long and hard about the daily specials before ordering the county's best Thai red curry and the county's best

Thai green curry. Neither disappointed. Both oozed subtle and delicate flavour. The chicken and vegetables that were contained had been lightly cooked while the presentation was as pretty as a picture.

Rather than request dessert, we asked the chef to choose. She provided a tasting platter, including a playful coconut panna cotta, an indulgent chocolatey, fudgy cube that was dense, rich and satisfying and more. The only underwhelming element was a deep-fried ice cream sandwich.

Suree deserves all credit for pushing the envelope when it comes to Thai cuisine. Unlike most local, neighbourhood chefs, she creates imaginative dishes, daring to combine different ingredients to fashion something new.

Her presentation is delightful, her flavours exemplary and there's not a finer Thai restaurant in the region.

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CHOICE



Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2015 (BBC1, 9pm)
Huw Edwards presents coverage of the annual event from the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen and other members of the royal family. Rod Stewart, Pixie Lott, Andrea Bocelli and Gregory Porter perform alongside the Central Band of the Royal Air Force, the Queen's Colour Squadron, the Band of HM Royal Marines and the Band and Pipes of the Brigade of Gurkhas. Together they pay tribute to the victims of conflict, from the First World War to the present day, in a festival that also includes the traditional two-minute silence as thousands of poppy petals fall from the venue's ceiling.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Rugby League, England v New Zealand (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. **6.30** **Strictly Come Dancing.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present another round of dancing action as the twinkle-toed celebrities compete to stay out of the bottom two – and hopefully avoid the same fate as last week's eliminated couple. **8.00** **Doctor Who.** In the second part of the adventure which started last week, the Zygons have taken over, and the future of Earth is sealed in a box back in Unit's archive. But with the military organisation under the shapeshifting aliens' control and Clara missing, the Doctor and Oswin find themselves fugitives in a city where no one can be trusted. But even if the Time Lord can stop a war, can he also save his friends? Peter Capaldi stars as the time-travelling boffin, with Jenna Coleman as his trusty sidekick and Ingrid Oliver as Unit advisor Oswin. **10.00** **The National Lottery Live.** Gaby Roslin is on hand to provide news of the all-important winning numbers. **9.00** **Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2015.** Huw Edwards presents coverage of the annual event from the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen and other members of the royal family. Rod Stewart, Pixie Lott, Andrea Bocelli and Gregory Porter perform alongside the Central Band of the Royal Air Force, the Queen's Colour Squadron, the Band of HM Royal Marines and the Band and Pipes of the Brigade of Gurkhas. Together they pay tribute to the victims of conflict, from the First World War to the present day, in a festival that also includes the traditional two-minute silence as thousands of poppy petals fall from the venue's ceiling. **10.40** BBC News; Weather. **11.00** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents; National Lottery Update. **12.25** The Apprentice. (R) **1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 **Film:** The Moon Is Blue. (1953) **7.55** **Film:** The Captive Heart. (1946) **9.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **10.30** The Wonder of Animals. **11.00** Animal SOS. (R) **11.30** Animal SOS. (R) **12.00** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.45** My Life on a Plate. (R) **1.30** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **2.00** **Film:** Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. (1967) Comedy drama, starring Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn. **3.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. (R) **5.30** Flog It! (R) **6.30** **The Great Pottery Throw Down.** Sara Cox invites 10 home pottery enthusiasts to gather in Stoke-on-Trent, where they take part in a competitive throwing contest to determine which of them should be named Top Potter. Through a series of 18 challenges, taking place over the course of 35 days, the competitors will be judged on their craft skills and creativity by ceramic artist Kate Malone and master potter Keith Bryner Jones. The competition gets under way as the amateurs take part in a four-day assignment, in which they must produce a set of stackable kitchen bowls from lumps of earthenware clay. They also face a Spot Test, in which they must attach handles to 20 mugs within a strict time limit, and a Throw Down, where the judges ask them to make as many egg-cups as they can within 20 minutes. (R) **7.30** **Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul.** The chef continues his journey through Croatia and savours the native osopjes of Ston, before crossing the border into Albania, where he is joined by his son Jack. (R) **8.30** **Dad's Army.** Corporal Jones finds himself cast adrift during an exercise pitting Mainwaring and his home-front heroes against their arch-rival Captain Square. (R) **9.00** **QI XL.** Host Stephen Fry invites Noel Fielding, Rhod Gilbert and Cariad Lloyd to join regular panelist Alan Davies as he meanders through miscellaneous M-themed matters. **9.45** **Film: Song for Marion.** (2012) Premiere. Comedy drama, with Terence Stamp, Gemma Arterton and Christopher Eccleston. **11.15** **The Many Faces of Richard Wilson.** (R) **12.15** **Film:** Mad City. (1997) **2.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Super 4. (R) **7.40** Adventure Time. **8.00** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.35** Downton Abbey. (R) **1.40** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.45** Doc Martin. (R) **3.45** **Film:** Death Becomes Her. (1992) Black comedy, starring Goldie Hawn. **5.45** Regional Programme ; Weather. **6.00** **ITV News;** Weather. **6.15** **Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. **7.00** **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Rory Bremner, Laura Tobin, Deborah Meaden and Alan Titchmarsh answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity. **8.00** **The X Factor.** The remaining acts line up for the second stage of the nerve-racking live shows. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present as the competitors receive another chance to demonstrate their talent in the hopes of claiming a place in the live final later this year. Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nick Grimshaw and Rita Ora are on hand to appraise the would-be stars, and tomorrow's show will see yet another act eliminated following a tense sing-off. **10.20** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host chats to Sheridan Smith about her role in the stage revival of musical Funny Girl, and is also joined by Joan Collins, Danny DeVito and Ariana Grande. **11.25** **ITV News;** Weather. **11.45** **Piers Morgan's Life Stories.** Raquel Welch, most famous for her portrayal of the bikini-clad cave girl in the 1966 film One Million Years BC, reflects on her life and career. (R) **11.45** **Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Andrew Flintoff.** (R) **12.40** Jackpot247. **3.00** Show Me the Telly. (R) **5.30** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Doncaster, Aintree and Wincanton. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.00** **Come Dine with Me.** Admin worker Jessica Carroll hosts the final party in Lincolnshire. Despite a lack of culinary knowledge, she hopes her Chinese meal and the unusual pet will impress the guests. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **The Restoration Man.** George Clarke meets Mark Horton, who has bought the derelict shell of an 18th-century folly called Bath Lodge in Ormskirk, near Liverpool, with the dream of converting it himself. (R) **8.00** **Grand Designs.** Kevin McCloud meets Rob Hodgson and Kay Ralich, who plan to build a glass-fronted house on a crumbling cliff-top in Gwynedd, inspired by the villas of California. (R) **9.00** **Prison Night.** British inmates are given a chance to determine just how authentic some of the world's most popular big-screen depictions of life behind bars really are. A countdown of celebrated prison dramas, thrillers and comedies, as voted for by convicts serving time at Her Majesty's pleasure, reveal which films most accurately convey the realities of confinement. Plus, lifers, great escapes, Brits banged up abroad and prison bosses also provide their perspective on the plausibility of some of the cell-based hijinks devoured by cinema-goers over the ages. **10.35** **TFI Friday.** Elton John, Julianne Moore, Stanley Tucci, the Maccabees and the Vamps join host Chris Evans for music and chat, with stunts and skits. (R) **11.40** **Film: Lockout.** (2012) Sci-fi thriller, starring Guy Pearce. **1.25** Fargo. (R) **2.20** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **3.15** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.20** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.30** The Saturday Show. **11.25** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.25** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.25** Film: All I Want For Christmas. (2013) Festive fantasy, starring Melissa Sagemiller. **3.05** **Film:** A Nanny for Christmas. (2010) Romantic comedy, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Richard Ruccolo. **4.50** **Film:** Mistletoe Over Manhattan. (2011) Christmas fantasy, starring Tricia Helfer and Greg Bryk. **6.35** **5 News Weekend.** **6.40** **Film: Operation Crossbow.** (1965) Three Allied engineers parachute into occupied Holland on a mission to infiltrate and destroy a German missile base. The trio team up with the local resistance, but two of the men are unaware the third is a Nazi agent. Second World War adventure, starring George Peppard, Sophia Loren, Trevor Howard, Tom Courtenay and John Mills. **9.00** **Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches, as well as all the goals from the Championship, including Huddersfield Town v Leeds United, Nottingham Forest v Derby County, and Hull City v Middlesbrough. Plus, a round-up of the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers. **10.15** **Greatest Comedy Movies – Ever!** Special programme celebrating the greatest comedy films ever made, featuring recollections and revelations from stars on both sides of the camera. **11.50** **Film: See No Evil, Hear No Evil.** (1989) A blind man and his deaf friend go on the run to escape a trumped-up murder charge and crooks tracking down a top-secret microchip. Comedy, starring Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder. **1.35** The Gadget Show. Jon Bentley investigates mobile phone networks, while Jason Bradbury and Amy Williams look into cutting-edge technology for hairdressers and models. (R) **2.25** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00** Gift of Life. A former Merchant Navy sailor with a severe heart condition awaits a transplant. Last in the series. **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **7.15** Don't Tell the Bride **8.15** Top Gear **9.15** Russell Howard's Good News **10.15** **Film:** Halloween: Resurrection (2002) **11.45** Family Guy **1.55** Together **2.25** Rent a Cop **2.55** Asian Provocateur **3.25** The Fear **3.55** Close **BBC Four** **7.00** Tutankhamun: The Truth Uncovered **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **9.00** Arne Dahl: Afterquake – Part One **10.00** Arne Dahl: Afterquake – Part Two **11.00** Ultimate Covers at the BBC **12.00** Better Than The Original: The Joy of the Cover Version **1.00** Sing's Dylan **2.00** Top of the Pops: 1980 **2.35** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **3.35** Close **ITV2** **12.10** The Xtra Factor **1.10** Tricked **2.10** Catchphrase **2.50** You've Been Framed! **3.20** **Film:** The Little Vampire (2000) **5.15** **Film:** Scooby-Doo & Monsters Unleashed (2004) **7.10** **Film:** Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **9.00** **Film:** The Fast and the Furious (2001) **11.10** Celebrity Juice **11.55** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **12.55** Release the Hounds **1.50** Tricked **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **2.00** Rosemary & Thyme **3.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.55** **Film:** Columbo: Negative Reaction (1974) **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Inspector Morse **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4** **11.35** The Professionals **1.40** Pawn Stars **3.25** Storage Wars **4.20** Storage Wars: New York **6.20** **Film:** Red River (1948) **9.00** **Film:** Tremors (1989) **11.00** **Film:** Raw Deal (1986) **1.10** The Big Fish Off **2.10** Minder **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **11.00** The Goldbergs **12.00** **Film:** Aliens in the Attic (2009) **1.40** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.00** Chases in Chelsea **3.00** **Film:** See Spot Run (2001) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** **Film:** Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009) **11.00** Gogglebox **12.35** The Inbetweeners **1.40** The IT Crowd **2.45** How I Met Your Mother **3.50** 2 Broke Girls **4.15** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.35** Revenge **Film4** **1.00** Live Children and It (2004) **2.45** Magic in the Water (1995) **4.45** Tooth Fairy (2010) **6.50** Mission: Impossible (1996) **9.00** Knight and Day (2010) **11.10** Sorority Row (2009) **1.10** The Social Network (2010) **3.35** Close

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CHOICE



Michelle Dockery

Downton Abbey (ITV, 9pm)
Bertie's circumstances change suddenly, leaving Edith uncertain whether to risk telling him the truth or keep her past a secret at all costs. Mary wonders if she can ever make peace with her sister as hostilities escalate. Spratt shows some hidden talents and Molesley's first day as a teacher does not go according to plan. Mrs Patmore's bed and breakfast attracts unwanted attention, leaving her in need of the Crawleys' help. The last episode of the final series, although the Crawleys will return one last time for a Christmas special. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.25** Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph. **12.20** Regional Programme. **1.30** BBC News: Weather. **1.45** Liffeline. **1.55** FA Cup Final Score. An FA Cup edition of the football results and report show. **3.00** Points of View. **3.15** The People Remember. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** The Hunt. (R) **5.50** BBC News. **6.10** Regional Programme. **6.15** Countryfile. Reports on rural issues in Cambridgeshire. Matt Baker reveals how students have long had an impact on rural affairs. Joe Crowley finds out about the restoration of the Great Fen and the recovery of a crashed Spitfire. Ellie Harrison uncovers stories about the Peak District from the Second World War, and Adam Henson meets JB Gill of pop group JLS, who is running a turkey farm. Including Weather For The Week Ahead. **7.15** Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman present the results of last night's show. Seal provides the music and the professionals perform a Remembrance Day routine. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the second programme this year from RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire, and discovers the story of a length of tree that ended up inside a Lancaster bomber. Treasures brought in to be valued include a harp that survived the French Revolution, a curious wooden item with an unexpected purpose, a diamond brooch found hidden inside a barometer and a pair of Second World War propaganda posters printed on hessian sacking. **9.00** The Hunt. A look at how predators living in the Arctic have to constantly adapt their hunting strategies as the environment around them radically changes. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, which featured Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur, Aston Villa v Manchester City and Liverpool v Crystal Palace. **11.45** Citizen Khan. (R) **12.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** BBC News.

BBC2

7.00 The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) **8.00** Countryfile's Ramble for Children In Need. (R) **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** My Life on a Plate. (R) **11.30** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.00** FA Cup Final Score. The FA Cup edition of the football results and report show continues. **4.15** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **4.45** Flog It! (R) **5.30** Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph. **6.30** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the weekend's first-round matches, as the 20 non-league teams to progress through the qualifying rounds competed alongside the 48 League One and League Two clubs. Standout ties in this opening round included Notts County's trip to Salford City – part-owned by former Manchester United stars Gary and Phil Neville, Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs and Nicky Butt. Elsewhere, part-timers Dicot Town hosted Exeter City, and 2013 winners Wigan Athletic took the short trip to face League One rivals Bury. **8.00** Earth's Wildest Waters: The Big Fish. The semi-final is held in Canada, where the anglers go searching for Pacific salmon, bull trout and white sturgeon and discover how fish migrations drive the country's ecosystem. **9.00** Film: Looper. (2012) In the future, a crime syndicate uses time travel to dispose of people without trace, sending them back 30 years to be killed by hitmen. One of the assassins employed by the Mob finds his latest target is himself as an older man, and both versions go on the run as they try to change the course of history. Sci-fi thriller, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt. **10.50** Family Guy. Peter befriends a man named Mahmoud while recovering from a sky-diving accident in hospital, but Quagmire and Joe are immediately suspicious of this charismatic newcomer. **11.10** Family Guy. Mayor West becomes the prime suspect when a murder is committed at his mansion – but once his trial begins, one of the jurors begins to doubt his guilt. **11.30** Top Copers. **12.00** Film: Return from the River Kwai. (1988) **1.35** Sign Zone: Countryfile's Ramble for Children In Need. (R) **2.50** Holy City. (R) **3.50** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. **6.25** Bottom Knocker Street. **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Super 4. (R) **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.00** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **8.30** Fish Hooks. **9.00** Horrible Science. **9.25** FIA Formula E Championship. **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **11.15** ITV News: Weather. **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** The Chase. (R) **2.25** The X Factor. (R) **4.40** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010) Fantasy comedy, starring Emma Thompson. **6.40** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.50** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Jekyll and Hyde. Robert uses some of his grandfather's potions to cure himself of his alter ego, whom he is desperate to keep secret from Lily, and also discovers his grandmother may still be alive. **8.00** The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present the results of last night's vote, before the lowest scoring acts compete in a sing-off to determine which of them will leave the competition. **9.00** Downton Abbey. Bertie's circumstances change suddenly, leaving Edith uncertain whether to risk telling him the truth or keep her past a secret at all costs. Mary wonders if she can ever make peace with her sister as hostilities escalate. Spratt shows some hidden talents and Molesley's first day as a teacher does not go according to plan. Mrs Patmore's bed and breakfast attracts unwanted attention, leaving her in need of the Crawleys' help. The last episode of the final series, although the Crawleys will return one last time for a Christmas special. Last in the series. **10.40** ITV News: Weather. **10.50** Off Her Rockers. A foul-mouthed nun runs amok, Seb gets advice on attending a nationalist wedding and Dave gives a member of the public his lucky pants. (R) **11.20** Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the fourth round of fixtures, which included Northampton Saints v Saracens. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **6.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** The Simpsons. (R) **9.00** The Simpsons. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** The Simpsons. (R) **3.50** The Simpsons. (R) **4.20** The Simpsons. **4.50** Film: The Simpsons Movie. (2007) Animated comedy, with the voice of Dan Castellaneta. **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Restoring Britain's Landmarks. Alastair Dick-Cleland visits the engine house at Dancescombe, where a refurbishment is underway, while John Evetts searches for an antique telescope to complete the tower at Belmont House in Lyme Regis. Plus, Anna Keay explores the story behind the Victorian star gazer Dr Bangay. (R) **8.00** Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales go to Ireland and travel along the Shannon Erne Waterway, a canal linking the North to the South. Along the way, they try some traditional dancing and folk singing, visit historic sites including Crom Castle and Bloody Pass, and meet a genealogist with a fascinating story to tell. Last in the series. **9.00** Homeland. The Hacktivists plans gather steam, as Quinn covers for Carrie as Dar and Allison assess the damage. Thriller following a team of CIA agents battling terrorists and problems in their personal lives. Claire Danes stars. **10.00** Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Tierne. (R) **11.05** Film: The American. (2010) A hitman lies low in an Italian village after a brush with death, and tempts fate by pursuing a relationship with a local woman. Thriller, with George Clooney and Violante Placido. **1.00** Grand Designs Australia. **1.55** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **2.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.30** 1001 Things You Should Know. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Ticky Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Hoodab and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.15** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.10** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.25** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.40** Football League Tonight. (R) **11.00** 5 News Special: Remembrance Sunday. **11.05** The Secret Life of Pets. (R) **11.35** Film: The Town Christmas Forgot. (2010) **1.20** Film: The Christmas Bunny. (2010) Family drama, starring Sophie Bolen. **3.15** Film: Defending Santa. (2013) Premiere. Festive drama, starring Dean Cain. **5.05** 5 News Weekend. **5.10** Film: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves. (1991) Action adventure, starring Kevin Costner. **8.05** Impractical Jokers US. New series. The guys are challenged to sell anti-agony products by rubbing as much lotion as possible onto a stranger's body. They also conduct an unusual survey and must try to steal things from people's shopping carts. Finally, one of the group has to sing an improvised song at a baseball match, but is only given the title when he steps onto the field. **8.35** Impractical Jokers US. The guys act as oddball apartment dwellers looking for room-mates, and jump the queue for Broadway show tickets. **9.00** Film: The Expendables 2. (2012) Mercenary leader Barney Ross is recruited by the CIA to recover a top-secret package, only to come to blows with a rival band of hired guns. Barney swears revenge when the other faction kill his protegee, and leads his men on a mission to stop their enemies taking over a former Soviet nuclear facility. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone and Jean-Claude Van Damme. **10.55** Film: Highlander. (1986) Immortal warriors must fight each other in duels to the death through the centuries, until only one survives. Fantasy action adventure, with Christopher Lambert and Sean Connery. **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Eamonn & Ruth: How the Other Half Lives. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear. **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride. **9.00** Film: Blades of Glory (2007) **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News. **11.30** Family Guy. **12.15** American Dad! **12.40** Family Guy. **1.00** Rent a Cop. **1.30** Together 2.00 Is This Rap? Sex on Trial. **3.00** Asian Provocateur. **3.30** The Fear. **4.00** Close. **BBC Four**
7.00 Killer Whales: Beneath the Surface – Natural World. **8.00** Dames of Classic Drama at the BBC. **9.00** In Conversation. **10.00** The Sky at Night. **10.30** Horizon: Asteroids – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. **11.30** Horizon: Solar Storms – The Threat to Planet Earth. **12.30** Sing's Dylan. **1.10** James May at the Edge of Space. **1.40** Madness in the Desert: Paris to Dakar Rally. **2.40** In Conversation. **3.40** Close. **ITV2**
2.00 The Almost Impossible Gameshow. **3.00** Film: Nim's Island (2008) **4.55** Film: Space Jam (1996) **6.40** Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) **9.00** The Xtra Factor. **10.00** Film: 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003) **12.10** Viral. **12.55** Reality Bites. **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records. **2.05** Ariana Grande: The Hot Desk. **2.15** Teleshopping. **ITV3**
2.30 Jane Eyre. **4.45** Midsomer Murders. **6.50** Sunday Night at the Palladium. **7.55** Wycliffe. **9.00** Joanna Lumley: The Search for Noah's Ark. **10.30** Birds of a Feather. **11.00** Film: Out of Sight (1998) **1.25** Agatha Christie's Marple. **3.00** Doctor at Large. **3.25** ITV3 Nightscreen. **3.40** Emmerdale. **ITV4**
12.25 Pawn Stars. **2.15** The Car Chasers. **3.20** Film: Red River (1948) **6.00** British Touring Car Championship. **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union. **9.00** Film: Eraser (1996) **11.20** Film: The Wicker Man (1973) **1.15** Whisker Wars. **2.10** I Want That Car. **3.00** Teleshopping. **E4**
2.30 Couples Come Dine with Me. **4.30** The Big Bang. **8.00** Film: Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) **10.05** The Inbetweeners. **11.15** The IT Crowd. **12.15** First Dates. **1.15** Drifters. **1.50** Cheving Gum. **2.25** Tattoos After Dark. **3.15** Hollywood. **Film4**
1.00 Catch That Kid (2004) **2.45** Von Ryan's Excess (1965) **5.00** Casper (1995) **7.00** St Trinian's (2007) **9.00** Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.10** Stand Up Guys (2012) **1.00** Vanilla Sky (2001) **3.45** Close.

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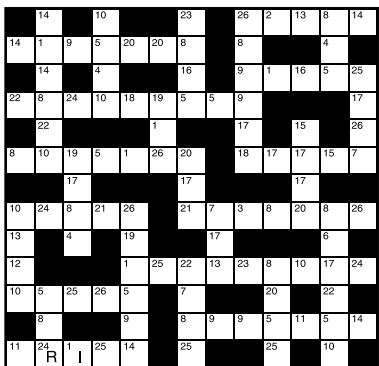
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BRAIN GYM No.350

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
D	B	U	R	Q	N	Z	E	F	L	P	A	W							
X	J	T	H	S	Y	O	I	C	M	G	K	V							

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Put a chess piece in pledge? (6)
- 100 with tender chest (6)
- Everything came free in vain (3,3,7)
- No position for a moderate (7)
- Happen to set dog on officer commanding (5)
- Meals of wood? (5)
- Girl gives small coin (5)
- Strength could be used here (5)
- Parcel I take to be a bad copy (7)
- Seeking a popular style in some sort of way (5,1,7)
- Have nothing to do with such rubbish (6)
- One who intends to be more niggardly? (6)

Down

- Positions about 50 steps this way (6)
- Esteemed source of water came to mind (4,7,2)
- Eat away like some active rodent (5)
- The opposite of go in as a result? (7)
- Not in a bad state as a reasonable proviso (4,9)
- About to drag up notice (6)
- Also two points in the mountains (5)
- Back answers used by scientists (7)
- I am to have a couple to spoil (6)
- Go off course one foot, being under the doctor (5)
- As waved by the prohibitionist? (6)
- A step in adhesive production (5)

Quick Clues:

Across

- Iterate (6)
- Bog (6)
- Without delegates (13)
- Hung down (7)
- Expiate (5)
- Form (5)
- Worth (5)
- Go in (5)
- Labour (7)
- Imprisonment (13)
- Puts off (6)
- Niche (6)

Down

- Slices (6)
- In brackets (13)
- Horrrify (5)
- Daunt (7)
- Dictatorial (13)
- Abrupt (6)
- Prepared (5)
- Depict (7)
- Following (6)
- Guide (5)
- Sides (6)
- Not asleep (5)

Sudoku

	5		6		9			
9				3				6
8	4				1		3	7
	9	3		5	7		8	
								3
	7		3	8		6	4	
7	3		9				5	4
		9						1
		4	8		5		7	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	4	3	8	9	2	1	6	7
8	1	6	3	5	7	4	9	2
9	7	2	6	4	1	3	8	5
2	3	4	9	1	6	7	5	8
7	8	1	5	2	4	6	3	9
6	5	9	7	3	8	2	4	1
3	6	5	1	7	9	8	2	4
4	9	7	2	6	3	5	1	8
1	2	8	4	6	5	9	7	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Claimed; 7 Suite; 9 And; 10 Comparing; 12 Underhanded; 15 Respiration; 17 Quartered; 19 Mar; 21 Drone; 22 Medical. Down: 1 Plant; 2 Gin; 3 Peso; 4 Guarantor; 5 Stunned; 8 Upshot; 11 Inspiring; 13 Earned; 14 Require; 16 Malay; 18 Even; 20 Tin. QUICK - Across: 6 Onerous; 7 Smeared; 9 Pop; 10 Sedentary; 12 Benediction; 15 Predecessor; 17 Destitute; 19 Pun; 21 Donor; 22 Deceitful. Down: 1 Endow; 2 Try; 3 Sure; 4 Imitation; 5 Warrior; 8 Remiss; 11 Rendition; 13 Excite; 14 Freedom; 16 Suave; 18 Tier; 20 Sea.

Thinking space

Quiz

- Who succeeded Cecil Parkinson in 1983 as Conservative party chairman?
- What are Formentera, Ibiza, Minorca and Majorca collectively known as?
- What cargo was H.M.S. Bounty carrying when the mutiny occurred?
- In what year was NATO established?
- In which village did Jesus reputedly turn water into wine?
- In which year did Mao Tse-tung die?
- Which Italian P.M. was kidnapped by the Red Brigade in 1978?
- Who wrote The Life of Dr. Johnson?
- In which country is the Jutland peninsula?
- In which country, other than Malawi, is the kwacha a unit of currency?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 SF; 2 Watercress; 3 Polish

Symphony; 4 1965; 5 Rhine; 6 Fear of men;

7 Trombone; 8 Zambezi; 9 Diana Prince;

10 1910.

Niner: CREMATING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

478 gives something to wear,
3524 gives a second thing to wear,
93261 gives a third thing to wear.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Superb village residence with 29ft conservatory



SET in the heart of the wonderful village of Essington in Elmwood Avenue, this superb modern detached residence has outstanding and spacious accommodation.

Redesigned to include a ground-floor annexe-style living including a lounge, bedroom and wet room, it is for sale through Connells at £369,999.

The main accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, an entrance hall, a generous lounge with separate dining room, a fitted breakfast kitchen, utility and ground-floor WC and – one of the many features of this property – a 29ft conservatory.

The first floor benefits from a landing area, four further generous bedrooms, two further en suites and a separate family bathroom. Externally the property has a large frontage providing ample block-paved off-road parking with a superb generous detached garage. The rear garden has a pleasant lawned area with a fantastic range of plants, trees and shrubs.

For further information contact Connells on 01902 710170 or visit the website www.connells.co.uk



Impressive family home at £370,000



LOCATED in a much sought-after cul-de-sac in Birchfield Avenue, Tetterton, Wolverhampton, this impressive detached family home has excellent living accommodation throughout. It is for sale through Sanders Wright & Freeman at £370,000.

Beautifully maintained, the property stands behind a generous block-paved driveway with access to a double garage and has well-planned accommodation comprising reception hall, guest WC, large L-shaped living/dining room, spacious fitted kitchen, laundry/utility room, impressive master bedroom with dressing area and en suite shower, three further double bedrooms and a large family bathroom. To the rear of the property is a mature rear garden. Birch-

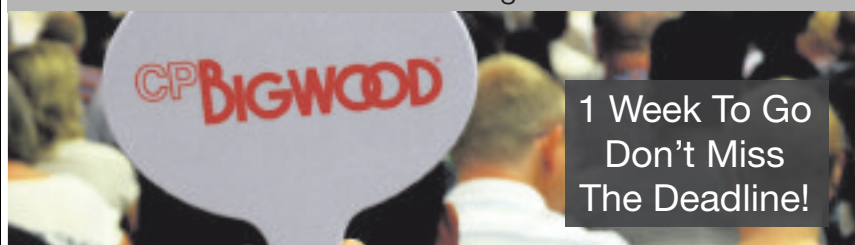


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CANNOCK CHASE

Landlords Forum

Thursday 12th November 2015 6.30pm

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL, CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

If you are a Landlord with property to rent particularly in the Cannock Chase Area, why not attend the next meeting of the Landlords Forum?

Guest Speakers for the evening are:

Wayne Barber

(Local Partnership Manager) HOME OFFICE
'Right to Rent' Checks from 01/02/16

Neil Griffiths

(Fire Safety Officer) Staffordshire Fire and Rescue 'New' Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Regulations from 01/10/15

Housing Options / Private Sector Team

'Update' on Retaliatory evictions from 01/10/15 under the Deregulation Act 2015

Representation from:

Rob Wolfe

Local Taxation and Benefits Manager

Mandy Bygrave

National Landlords Association

For more information Contact

Julie Cope/Dee Kalirai

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Wolverhampton Office

TO LET



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• Retail park and a mix of occupiers
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Wolverhampton Office

TO LET/FOR SALE



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Unit 44 Central Trading Estate, Cable Street, Wolverhampton
• 8,960 sqft (832.5 sqm) high bay warehouse
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Wolverhampton Office

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Shepherd Drive
Willenhall

3 Bedroom semi detached house on a corner plot with potential to extend stp, lounge, breakfast kitchen, modern bathroom, central heating and double glazing, block paved driveway and corner rear garden, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000



Granville Street
Willenhall

FORMER SHOW HOME Modern 2 bedroom end terrace house with driveway and garage (ideal for conversion), entrance hall, lounge, modern kitchen, downstairs wc, modern bathroom, double glazing and central heating, good size rear garden, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000



Tameside Close
Willenhall

OFFERS OVER £63,000 3 Bedroom semi detached house available as a 50% shared ownership scheme, lounge, downstairs wc, modern kitchen/diner, modern bathroom, double glazing and central heating, driveway and rear garden, also available as 100% ownership call for details 01902 533323 Paul Dubberley Estate Agents.

OFFERS AROUND: £63,000



Mount Road
Willenhall

Updating required on this 3 bedroom semi detached house with no upward chain, entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, central heating and double glazing (where specified), driveway and garage, front and rear gardens, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000



Lichfield Road
Willenhall

Lovely traditional 3 bedroom semi detached home, lounge, dining room, kitchen, modern bathroom, central heating and double glazing, good size rear garden, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000



Harvesters Road
Willenhall

3 Bedroom semi detached house with no upward chain, entrance porch and hallway, kitchen/diner, lounge, downstairs wc, bathroom, double glazing and central heating (where specified), driveway and garage, front and rear gardens.

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000



Tarn Close
Willenhall

New build 3 bedroom end terrace currently under construction and ready for completion February next year, entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, downstairs wc, en-suite to main bedroom, bathroom, driveway providing off road parking, front and rear gardens, double glazing and central heating, buy and reserve now!

OFFERS AROUND: £160,000



Mount Pleasant
Bilston

This well presented mid terrace property with the benefit of upvc double glazing & gas central heating throughout, briefly comprises, porch, hallway, two separate living rooms, extended kitchen, landing, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden and off road parking.

OFFERS AROUND: £95,000



Lane Street
Bilston

Immaculate Detached Bungalow in a popular location. Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating Briefly Comprising: Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Large Conservatory, Cottage Style Fitted Kitchen, Three Double Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom suite with separate Shower Cubicle, Off Road Parking to Front & Extensive Rear Garden with Vehicle Access. Must be Viewed to appreciate the Accommodation on Offer

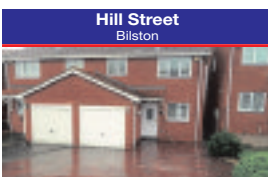
OFFERS AROUND: £180,000



Grosvenor Road
Wolverhampton

This Immaculate 'Macklow' Style Semi Detached property situated in a popular residential location with New Central Heating system and Double Glazed windows. Briefly Comprising, Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Guest Cloakroom, Kitchen/ Diner, Sun room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway, Garage and Front & Rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN.

OFFERS AROUND: £180,000



Hill Street
Bilston

3 Bedroom modern semi detached house, entrance hall, modern kitchen, downstairs wc, lounge/diner, en-suite to main bedroom, family bathroom, double glazing and central heating, driveway and garage, rear garden, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £122,000



King Street
Bilston

Immaculate refurbished throughout 3 bedroom detached house, entrance hallway, downstairs shower room and wc, good size lounge, impressive spacious open plan kitchen/ diner, family bathroom, central heating and double glazing, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC - D

OFFERS AROUND: £140,000



Hartland Avenue
Bilston

Well Presented Modern End of Terrace close to all local amenities and transport links. Benefiting from UPVC Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating and briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Front Driveway providing off road parking for two cars and Rear Garden.

OFFERS AROUND: £100,000



Lakeside Close
Willenhall

Modern 3 bedroom detached house with en-suite to main, 2 reception rooms, downstairs wc, kitchen, main bathroom, garage and driveway, double glazing and central heating, front and rear gardens, with no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £180,000



Martin Drive
Willenhall

Semi Detached Residence in a Popular Location & Offering No Upward Chain. UPVC Double Glazing (where specified) & Gas Central Heating Briefly Comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage.

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000



Woodcote Road
Wolverhampton

4 Bedroom modern detached house in excellent condition within a short distance of Tettenhall village, entrance hallway, downstairs wc, lounge, dining room, modern breakfast kitchen with integral appliances, conservatory, modern bathroom, driveway, car port and garage, front and rear gardens, double glazing and central heating, call Paul Dubberley 01902 533323 to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £300,000

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Darlaston Lane
Bilston

This recently refurbished semi detached property which offers no upward chain has been completed to a good standard with a full rewire and is gas central heated throughout briefly comprises, porch, hallway, lounge, open plan kitchen / dining area, downstairs wc, landing, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden, driveway and garage.

OFFERS AROUND: £155,000



Bruford Road
Wolverhampton

Attention Investors / First Time Buyers End Terrace Residence in a popular location and offering No Upward Chain. Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing Briefly Comprising: Reception Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Shower room, covered veranda, 3 Bedrooms & Rear Garden.

OFFERS AROUND: £82,950



Webb Street
Bilston

Refurbished Semi Detached Residence with No Upward Chain, close to all local amenities and transports link. UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating briefly comprising Porch, Reception Hall, Guest WC, Through Lounge, Re Fitted Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Re Fitted Shower Room, Front Driveway, Garage & Enclosed Rear Garden.

OFFERS AROUND: £95,000



Bradley Lane
Bilston

Extended Semi Detached Residence in a popular location close to all local amenities and transport links. UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating & No Upward Chain. Briefly Comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Re Fitted Bathroom, Front & Rear Garden, Driveway & Garage.

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000



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35

The Chronicle
Thursday, November 5, 2015

WILLENHALL



PINSON RD, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Town House Having Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, Part C/ Heating, Generous Rear Garden. Ideal FTB Or BTL.

£79,995

DARLASTON



HERBERTS PK RD, DARLASTON
Two Bed Mid Town House Having Porch, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Verandah, Utility, Family Bathroom, C/ Heating, Majority D/ Glazing, Front And Rear Gardens. Ideal BTL Or FTB

£80,000

WILLENHALL



SLATER ST, WILLENHALL
Three Bed End Town House Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen With Appliances, Downstairs W.C., Conservatory, Family Bathroom With Shower, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking.

£84,995

BEECHDALE



NAPIER RD, WALSALL
Refurbished Three Bed Town House Comprises Of Dining Room, Rear Lounge, Fitted Kitchen With Integrated Appliances, Bathroom & Separate W.C. UPVC D/Glazing, C/ Heating And Private Rear Garden.

£94,995

WILLENHALL



HARPER ST, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Mid-Town House Comprises Of Spacious Entrance Hall, Modern Fitted Kitchen With Integrated Oven And Hob, Ground Floor W/C, Good Sized Lounge, Family Bathroom With Shower, D/G, C/H.

£97,500

WILLENHALL



BLOXWICH RD SOUTH, W-HALL
Two Bed Semi Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden & Driveway.

£100,000

SHORT HEATH



COLTHAM ROAD, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Town House Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge Opening Into Dining Room, Extended Kitchen And Modern Refitted Shower Room. The Property Benefits From UPVC D/G, G/C/H And Garden.

£105,000

BENTLEY



EDINBURGH AVE, WALSALL
Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen & Ground Floor W.C. 1st Floor Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Off Road Parking To The Front & Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£110,000

POOL HAYES



ALTON AVENUE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi Comprises Of Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner And Utility Area, Bathroom And Separate W.C. The Property Also Benefits From G/C/H, Part D/G, Private Garden And Off Road Parking.

£115,000

SHORT HEATH



SHERLOCK CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Two Bed End Townhouse. Comprises Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Conservatory, Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H, Parking To The Fore, Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£119,950

WILLENHALL



BIRCHES RISE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner And Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear. Allocated Off Road Parking Space. VIEWING ADVISED!

O.I.R.O £120,000

WILLENHALL



THE CRESCENT, WILLENHALL
Two, One Bedroom Flats Comprises Of Front Entrance Door, Double Bathroom, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Modern Fitted Bathroom With Shower. The Flats Also Benefits From UPVC D/G And G/C/H Throughout.

£120,000

BRACKENDALE ESTATE



STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Town House Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Refitted Kitchen, Lounge, Conservatory And Ground Floor WC, Family Bathroom. UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. Garage To The Rear.

£124,995

ASHMORE LAKE



ASHMORE LAKE RD, W-HALL
Three Bed Semi Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Dining Room, Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating Throughout, Generous Rear Garden.

£124,995

NEW INVENTION



CONWAY CRES, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Through Lounge/Diner, Play Room/Study, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Family Bathroom, UPVC D/G, Gas C/H, Garage.

£129,995

BENTLEY



W-TON RD WEST, WALSALL
Traditional Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/ Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, Gas C/Heating, Garage, Driveway, Garden With A Brick Built Detached Summer House.

£138,995

PORTOBELLO



DILLOWAYS LANE, W-HALL
Two, Two Bedroom Self Contained Flats Both Having Hallway, Lounge, Fitted kitchen And Family Shower Room. Both Flats Also Benefit From D/Glazing & C/ Heating.

£139,995

WILLENHALL



HARROWBY PLACE, W-HALL
Three Bed Semi Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge/Diner, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Re-Fitted Shower Room. The Property Also Benefits From Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating Throughout.

£139,995

KINGFISHER ESTATE



WELLAND GROVE, W-HALL
Three Bedroom Detached Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. D/ Glazed, G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear, Driveway & Garage.

£145,995

FURZEBANK



PINENEEDLE CROFT, W-HALL
Extended Three Bed Semi Detached Bungalow Which Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Good Sized Lounge/ Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Driveway & Private Rear Garden.

£169,950

WILLENHALL



BILSTON LANE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached. Comprises Of Porch, Hall, Guest W.C., Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/ Diner, Veranda & Family Bathroom. Maj D/G, G/C/H. Garden To Fore. O/R/P. Extensive Gardens To Rear.

£185,000

SHORT HEATH



WALKERS FOLD, W-HALL
Four Bed Detached Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Ground Floor W.C., En-suite, Refitted Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating And Integral Garage. MUST BE VIEWED.

£219,995

SHORT HEATH



BLOXWICH RD NORTH, W-HALL
Detached Three Bed Having Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge With Inglenook Fireplace, Separate Sitting Room, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Galleried Landing, Family Bathroom, Garage, D/Glazing, C/ Heating.

£260,000

SHORT HEATH



BLOXWICH ROAD NORTH, W-HALL
Superb Spacious 3/4 Bed Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Impressive Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Family Bathroom, Conservatory, D/G & C/H, Detached Garage, Suitable For Disabled Living. MUST BE VIEWED.

£285,000

Willenhall 01902 606595

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11 HEDNESFORD ROAD, BROWNHILLS WEST	10.00 A.M.	10.00 A.M.
388 HEDNESFORD ROAD, HEATH HAYES	10.30 A.M.	10.30 A.M.
38 ROWLEY CLOSE, HEDNESFORD	11.00 A.M.	11.00 A.M.
56 HEATH GAP ROAD, CANNOCK	11.30 A.M.	11.30 A.M.
3 MYRTLE GROVE, BREWOOD	12.05 P.M.	12.15 P.M.
26A NEW ROAD, ARMITAGE	BY COURTESY OF THE TENANTS IN OCCUPATION	
44 CANNOCK ROAD, BLACKFORDS		
72 PRINCESS STREET, BURNTWOOD		
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- ◆ Semi detached house
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- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ Garage
- ◆ Gas fired central heating (Not Tested)
- ◆ EPC rating D (61)

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- ◆ Gas central heating
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- ◆ Currently producing £2,600 P.A ◆ EPC rating E (46)

GUIDE PRICE £50,000+

**72 PRINCESS
STREET,
BURNTWOOD,
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**FREEHOLD
SUBJECT TO
REGULATED
TENANCY**



- ◆ Semi detached house
- ◆ Built C.1901 of brick and tile construction
- ◆ Requiring extensive modernisation and refurbishment
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ Gas fired central heating ◆ EPC rating F (33)

GUIDE PRICE £70,000

**11
HEDNESFORD
ROAD,
BROWNHILLS,
WS8 7LS**

**FREEHOLD
WITH VACANT
POSSESSION**



- ◆ Currently producing £3,588 P.A.
- ◆ Traditional semi detached house
- ◆ Brick and tile construction
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ EPC rating G (1)

GUIDE PRICE £30,000+

**44 CANNOCK
ROAD,
CANNOCK,
WS11 5BX**

**FREEHOLD
SUBJECT TO
REGULATED
WEEKLY TENANCY**



- ◆ First floor flat
- ◆ In popular residential area
- ◆ Currently let on an assured shorthold tenancy (Holding over)
- ◆ Currently producing £4,420 P.A
- ◆ EPC rating G (4)

GUIDE PRICE £35,000+



- ◆ Mid terraced house
- ◆ Two bedrooms
- ◆ Gas central heating
- ◆ Part double glazed
- ◆ In need of repair/improvement
- ◆ EPC rating E (54)

GUIDE PRICE £60,000-£60,000

**3 MYRTLE
GROVE,
BREWOOD
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- ◆ Semi detached bungalow
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- ◆ EPC rating D (55)

Guide Price £140,000-£160,000



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Talke Road Walsall



Offers around £120,000

A three bedroom end terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, guest W.C, three bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens, garage and off road parking. Energy rating C.

Aldis Road Walsall



Offers around £110,000

A recently refurbished two-bedroom semi-detached property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely property further comprises, reception hall, through lounge, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, family bathroom and front and rear garden. Energy rating D.

Lincoln Road Walsall



Offers around £95,000

A very well-presented two-bedroom end-of-terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating. This lovely property further comprises, reception hall, spacious open plan through lounge/diner, fitted breakfast kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, good size family bathroom and rear garden. Energy rating E.

Pargeter Street Walsall



Offers around £175,000

Suit investor/developer is this unique three-story property in need of total refurbishment and modernisation throughout whilst having the benefit of Majority UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, kitchen, cellar, 5 reception rooms, store room, 4 double bedrooms, bathroom, enclosed off road parking, garage/workshop, rear garden with out buildings. Energy rating F.

Oxford Place Merton Way



Offers around £77,000

●●●IDEAL FOR LANDLORD AS CURRENTLY LET OUT FOR £475PCM●●● A superb two-bedroom second-floor modern apartment having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely apartment further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted modern kitchen with integrated appliances, two bedrooms (master with en suite shower room), family bathroom with shower from taps and allocated parking. Energy rating C.

Shepwell Green Willenhall



Offer around £69,995

A two-bedroom second-floor flat having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, central heating and no upward chain. Ideal for landlord (previously let out for £480pcm) or first-time buyer this well-presented property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, study, fitted kitchen, 2 x double bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, parking space and garage. Energy rating E.

Water Reed Grove Bloxwich



Offers around £87,000

A superb modern two-bedroom top-floor apartment having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, central heating and no upward chain. This lovely property further comprises, reception hall with intercom, lounge, modern fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, communal gardens and allocated parking space. Energy Rating C.

Falcondale Road Willenhall



Offers around £139,995

Offers are invited on this lovely two-bedroom semi-detached property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and fitted intruder alarm. Located in the sought-after 'Sneyd Park' estate the property further comprises, porch, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, conservatory, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens, detached garage and off road parking for several vehicles. Awaiting energy rating.

The Hayes Willenhall



Offers around £145,000

A two-bedroom semi-detached bungalow having the benefit of no upward chain, UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, refitted kitchen, garage, two bedrooms, family bathroom, good sized attractive rear garden and off road parking to the front. Energy rating D.

Bowling Green Close Darlaston



Offers around £90,000

A recently refurbished three-bedroom middle-terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. Recently redecorated and re-carpeted this lovely family home further comprises reception hall, guest W.C, lounge, fitted kitchen diner, three bedrooms, family bathroom and front and rear gardens. Energy rating D.

Fallowfield Road Park Hall



Offers around £475,000

A rare opportunity to purchase a unique, one-off design, brand new, executive, four-bedroom detached family home in a much sought-after estate, having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating & underfloor heating, CCTV and fitted intruder alarm. This ideal family home further comprises, porch, reception hall, spacious through lounge, fitted kitchen, utility room, guest W.C/bathroom, four double bedrooms, 2 x ensuite and family bathroom, integral garage, driveway with electric gate providing secure off road parking. Estimated completion is set for the end November 2015. Awaiting energy rating. All room sizes are taken from plan not 'as built'.



Cope Street Walsall



Offers around £90,000

A very well-presented, improved and upgraded 2/3-bedroom middle-terrace family home having the benefit of majority UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The well-maintained family home further comprises, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, ground floor refitted bathroom, 3 bedrooms (3rd bedroom accessed through bedroom one) and attractive rear garden. Energy rating D.

Ashtree Road Pelsall



Offers over £190,000

A lovely three-bedroom detached cottage having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This ideal family home further comprises, porch, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, conservatory, ground floor shower room, three bedrooms (master is attic conversion with ensuite), rear gardens, detached garage with ample off road parking for several vehicles. Energy rating E.

Bloxwich Road Walsall



Offers around £105,000

A fully refurbished and upgraded 3-bedroom middle-terrace having the benefit of fresh decoration, new carpets, UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This well-presented family home further comprises lounge, dining room, re-fitted kitchen with built-in oven and hob, re-fitted ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, Refitted W.C (on first floor) and rear garden. Energy rating E.

Hollyhedge Lane Walsall



Offers around £250,000

●●●INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE TWO SEMI DETACHED HOUSES, TOTAL RENTAL INCOME £1425PCM●●● Comprising a computer repair shop currently let for £500pcm with a one-bedroom flat above let out at £400pcm. Number 105 is currently let out as a 3-bedroom semi for £525pcm (was previously a barber shop). Garages at rear with potential to convert to flats (Subject to planning permission) Call agent for viewing and further details.

Hilton Road Lanesfield



Offers around £109,995

●●●REDUCED FROM £130,000 AND SIMPLY MUST BE VIEWED●●● Refurbished, improved and upgraded with tens of thousands of pounds spent improving the property this superb three-bedroom family home has the benefit of no upward chain, NEW UPVC double glazing, NEW central heating system, NEW floor coverings and decoration. This ideal family home further comprises reception hall, spacious open plan lounge/diner/re-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, refitted family bathroom with shower and front and rear gardens. Energy rating C.

Signal Grove Bloxwich



Offers around £59,995

A well-presented one-bedroom property having the benefit of double glazing, electric central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, open plan lounge/fitted kitchen, double bedroom with built-in wardrobes, family bathroom, communal gardens and allocated parking space. Energy rating C.

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Apartment living in Brownhills from £83,996[^] through Help to Buy (full purchase price £104,995)

The Courtyard - A stunning new development that offers high standard of living

The Courtyard in Brownhills offers a fantastic opportunity for you to elevate your lifestyle by moving into a superb brand new apartment on this select, canalside development. There are **one and two bedroom apartments** for sale with a starting price of just **£83,996[^]** under the government's **Help to Buy** scheme (full purchase price £104,995). Or for those who prefer a house, there are three to choose from, all two bedroom - from **£107,996[^]** through Help to buy (full purchase price £134,995).

The Courtyard is a uniquely, well planned and attractive development. Both the apartments and the houses are designed with a contemporary flare, internally and externally, creating a stunning range of new homes set amongst beautiful landscaping and mature trees.

Outstanding specification

Once you see inside the apartments for yourself, you'll understand the Kier difference. This award winning developer delivers homes that are built to the highest standards and includes an impressive specification, as standard. The properties include **carpets and Karndean Design flooring**, whilst the wall tiling is by **Porcelanosa** – this kind of quality creates a great foundation for the overall décor.

The hallmark to these apartments is the attention to detail, such as **stylish chrome sockets and light switches** and the **fitted wardrobes to the master bedroom**. But perhaps the real centrepiece is the kitchen which comes superbly fitted and equipped, including **washer/dryer, fridge freezer and stainless steel oven complete with hob and hood**. The final finishing touch is the **chrome downlighters** for just the right balance of ambient light.

The perfect place to be

With its traditional high street, beautiful surrounding countryside, and excellent amenities Brownhills is an excellent place to call home, and even better when your address is The Courtyard. This canalside location has so much going for it, and with **each apartment boasting a patio or balcony** it's a treat to simply sit out and enjoy the tranquil surroundings.

But it's worth remembering that new homes, with such a superb specification, are not easy to come by in the Brownhills area, so we recommend you visit The Courtyard. It's an opportunity to see the show apartment and talk to the friendly, knowledgeable Kier Sales Advisor. They will be able to give you full information about the Help to Buy scheme which makes these properties even more amazing value than they already are. **To discover more, make a date to see the stunning, newly opened show apartment** or call **0845 652 2474[†]**.



CGI of the apartment scheme at The Courtyard. Photograph of show apartment at The Courtyard. Elevations and finishes may vary. [^] Help to Buy is available upon request subject to terms and conditions. [†] Calls cost 2p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.



www.kierliving.co.uk

highly impressive

Hurry, we have just three 2 bedroom homes available on this stunning canalside development. Each boasts an impressive specification fitted as standard with prices from **only £107,996[^]** through **Help to Buy** (full purchase price £134,995).

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The Courtyard

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Walsall **WS8 6DD**

Showhome open: Thurs-Mon 10am-5pm

call: 0845 652 2474[†]

email: kph.thecourtyardsales@kier.co.uk



CGI of the 2 bedroom homes at The Courtyard. Elevations and finishes may vary. [^] Help to Buy is available upon request subject to terms and conditions. [†] Calls cost 2p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.



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Norman Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Sought After Location
- Entrance Porch & Hallway
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen & Utility
- Downstairs W.C. & Shower Room
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

Monthly Rental Of £895

Park Hall Road, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Bungalow
- Park Hall Estate
- Refurbished Shower Room
- Large Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge & Utility
- Porch/Entrance Hallway
- Attic Room
- Off Road Parking & Garage

Monthly Rental Of £700

Allerdale Road, Clayhanger

- Two Bed Semi Detached
- Private Cul - De - Sac Location
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Rear Garden

Monthly Rental Of £575

Revival Street, Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Recently Built
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Guest WC
- Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £550

Windrush Close, Pelsall

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Diner/Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Double Glazing & Electric Heating

Monthly Rental Of £525

Hough Road, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Beautifully Presented
- Entrance Hall
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility/Downstairs W.C.
- Re-Fitted Shower Room
- D.Glazing/C.Heating

Monthly Rental Of £525

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If you answered "NO" please help us raise money for the people that have served and are serving today, collect a poppy from your local Goodchilds branch and make a donation to show your support.

Not just Estate Agents People

Glastonbury Crescent, Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Terraced Property
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Side Pantry
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £495

Cecil Street, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Cellar
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Double Glazing

Monthly Rental Of £495

Barrow Close, Walsall Wood

- Two bedroom first floor apartment
- Economy 7 Heating
- double glazing
- Lounge Diner
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Allocated and Visitor Parking Spaces
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Ladypool Close, Rushall

- Two Bedroom Maisonette
- New Fitted Bathroom
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- New Fitted Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with built in Robe
- Hallway with ample storage cupboards
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating

Monthly Rental Of £475

Walker Road, Bloxwich

- Top Floor Two Bedroom Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom with Shower
- DHSS Accepted
- Secure Intercom Access

Monthly Rental Of £450

Rockingham Close, Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Quadrant House
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Allocated Parking Space
- NOW ACCEPTING PETS
- Private Courtyard
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £450

Bridge Street, Walsall

- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Entrance Hallway
- Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Bedroom
- DHSS Accepted
- Town Centre Location
- Secondary Glazing

Monthly Rental Of £450

Walker Road, Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom 1st Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Entrance Hallway
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £450

West Street, Leamore

- Two Bedroom Terraced House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £425

Rockingham Close, Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Entrance Hallway
- Fitted Wardrobes in Both Bedrooms
- DHSS Accepted, Sorry No Pets
- ●IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE●

Monthly Rental Of £425

Lewis Street, Walsall

- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom with Shower
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers
- Rear Courtyard
- Rear Garden with Gated Access

Monthly Rental Of £425

Leamore Lane, Leamore

- Two Bedroom Terraced House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £425

Harrison Street, Bloxwich

- One Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Private Entrance
- Open Plan Kitchen / Lounge
- Bathroom with Shower
- D.Glazing & Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £350

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BENTLEY QUEEN ELIZABETH AVENUE
 ● Exceptional Extended 3 Bedrooms Semi Detached
 ● Hall, Lounge
 ● Dining Room
 ● Conservatory



- Breakfast Kitchen, Utility
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing, Gas CH
- Garage, Large Driveway

OFFERS OVER £145,000



BENTLEY TENBURY CLOSE
 ● Much Improved Well Presented Semi Detached
 ● Hall, Lounge, Re-fitted Dining Kitchen
 ● Conservatory
 ● Three Bedrooms



- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating System
- Driveway, Rear Gardens

£145,000



SHORT HEATH COLTHAM ROAD
 ● Stunning Completely Renovated Traditional Semi Detached On Popular Road
 ● Hall, Lounge, Brand New Dining Kitchen
 ● Three Bedrooms, Brand New Bathroom



- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Large Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking
- No Upward Chain

£145,000



BENTLEY MORRIS AVENUE
 ● Impressive 3 Bedrooms Semi Detached
 ● Hall, Lounge
 ● Kitchen, Study, Shower Room



- Conservatory, Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Driveway ● Large Rear Gardens

OFFERS OVER £140,000



WILLENHALL HODSON AVENUE
 ● Exceptional Greatly Improved Semi Detached In Cul De Sac Location
 ● Hall Through Lounge / Dining Room
 ● Fitted Kitchen



- Three Bedrooms
- Impressive Re-fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating System
- Garage, Driveway, Rear Gardens

£115,000



WILLENHALL VAUGHAN ROAD
 ● Improved Semi Detached Property
 ● Hall, Lounge
 ● Re-fitted Kitchen, Utility
 ● Re-fitted Bathroom



- Three Good Size Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Large Gardens

£110,000



NEW INVENTION DORCHESTER ROAD
 ● Stunning 2 Bedrooms Mid Terrace
 ● Garage
 ● Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
 ● Conservatory



- Impressive Refitted Kitchen
- Luxury Bathroom
- Double Glazing, Gas CH
- Driveway, Gardens

£110,000



WILLENHALL WAITE ROAD
 ● Semi Detached Property
 ● Open Plan Lounge And Dining Room
 ● Kitchen, Ground Floor Shower Room
 ● Three Bedrooms



- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating System
- Driveway, Rear Gardens

£110,000



WILLENHALL SHEPPELL GREEN
 ● Spacious Well Presented 2ND Floor Flat
 ● Hall, Large Lounge
 ● Spacious Kitchen
 ● Two Excellent Bedrooms
 ● Re-fitted Bathroom
 ● Double Glazing
 ● Garage
 ● No Chain



£69,995



ESSINGTON SNEYD LANE
 ● Superb Four Bedroom Detached with Garage
 ● Open plan lounge, dining room
 ● Family room ● Refitted breakfast kitchen
 ● Bathroom ● En-suite ● D Glazing ● Gas CH



WILLENHALL SANDBEDS ROAD
 ● Extensive 6 Bedrooms Family Property
 ● Four Reception ● Impressive Re-fitted Kitchen
 ● Bathroom ● En-Suite ● Shower Room
 ● Two Garages ● Block Paved Drive ● Large Gardens

£314,950



WILLENHALL BILSTON LANE
 ● Dreadly Extended 4 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
 ● Generous Plot with Development Potential STP
 ● Large Lounge ● Dining Room ● Impressive Kitchen
 ● Bathroom, Shower Room ● 2ft Games Room

£265,000



WILLENHALL BIRCHFIELDS ROAD
 ● Well Presented 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
 ● Extended Kitchen ● Two Reception Rooms
 ● Conservatory ● Bathroom ● Garage
 ● Pleasant Garden ● Driveway ● NO CHAIN

£220,000



ESSINGTON SNEYD LANE
 ● Traditional Semi on Premier Road
 ● Hall, Lounge ● Dining Kitchen
 ● Conservatory ● Two Large Bedrooms
 ● Loft Bedroom ● Impressive Bathroom ● Gardens

£185,000



SUMMER HAYES COLLIERS CLOSE
 ● Superb Improved 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
 ● Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen ● Re-fitted Bathroom
 ● Double Glazing ● Gas CH ● Gardens
 ● 20ft Garage ● Block Paved Driveway

£175,000



SNEYD PARK BROCKERIDGE CLOSE
 ● Impressive 3 Bedrooms Semi Detached
 ● Lounge ● Dining Room ● Extended Fitted Kitchen
 ● Garage & Driveway ● Gas CH ● Double Glazing
 ● Rear Gardens ● No Chain

£160,000



WILLENHALL ROEBUCK GLADE
 ● Spacious 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
 ● Hall, Lounge ● Dining Kitchen
 ● Bathroom ● Double Glazing ● Gas CH
 ● Front And Rear Gardens, Garage, Driveway

£149,950



NEW INVENTION MENAI CLOSE
 ● Improved 3 Bedrooms Semi Detached
 ● Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating System
 ● Hall, Through Lounge / Dining Room
 ● Re-fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Driveway, Gardens

£140,000



WILLENHALL DOVE DALE AVENUE
 ● Traditional 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
 ● Hall, Lounge ● Conservatory
 ● Re-fitted Kitchen, Bathroom ● Majority D Glaz
 ● Gas Ch, Garage ● Driveway ● Large Gardens

£132,950



WILLENHALL RUGELEY AVENUE
 ● Much Improved 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
 ● Hall, Lounge / Dining Room, Re-fitted Kitchen
 ● Utility, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas CH
 ● Driveway, Large Garden

£105,000



WILLENHALL BRICK KILN STREET
 ● WELL PRESENTED SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY
 ● LOUNGE, LARGE KITCHEN, G FLOOR BATHROOM
 ● Bathroom, Double Glaz ● Warm Air Heating
 ● DOUBLE GLAZING, DRIVEWAY, REAR GARDENS

OFFERS OVER £100,000



NEW INVENTION SQUIRES GROVE
 ● Well Presented Ground Floor Apartment
 ● Hall ● Lounge ● Fitted Kitchen
 ● Two Bedrooms ● Bathroom
 ● En-suite Shower Room ● Allocated Parking Space

£90,000 (FOR FULL 100% SHARE)

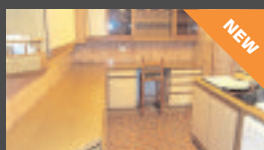


WILLENHALL LEVESON STREET
 ● Excellent Size Period Mid Terrace Property
 ● Hall, 2 Reception ● Large Kitchen, Utility Room
 ● Two Double Bedrooms ● Spacious Bathroom
 ● Double Glazing ● Gas CH, Rear Gardens

£85,000



BENTLEY POPLAR AVENUE
 ● Extended Semi Detached On Popular Road
 ● Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room
 ● Conservatory
 ● Ground Floor Shower Room



- Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage And Gardens To The Rear, No Chain

OFFERS OVER £92,000



WILLENHALL WELLINGTON PLACE
 ● Well Appointed First Floor Duplex Maisonette
 ● Allocated Parking Spaces
 ● Lounge with Dining Area ● Large Bedroom
 ● Fitted Kitchen ● Bathroom ● Double Glazing

£79,500



WILLENHALL HOLMAN CLOSE
 ● Much Improved Ground Floor Maisonette
 ● Hall, Lounge, Kitchen ● Double Bedroom
 ● Bathroom, Double Glaz ● Warm Air Heating
 ● Long Lease ● No Upward Chain

OFFERS OVER £50,000

Individual, stylish ADAM

By Bob Hickman

Vauxhall has been a long time coming to the supermini party, and it is an area in which it has missed out on of thousands of car sales. But with the very quirky ADAM it is now entering the section with relish.

The Adam is just over 12ft long, slightly longer than a MINI, and at 6ft 6in wide (if you include the mirrors) is one of the biggest in its class, slightly bigger than the Fiat 500 and the Audi A1.

Vauxhall has continued the fun with the name of the trims – they call them, Jam, Glam and Slam. Slam supposedly for a sporty ride, Jam is fashionable, and Glam is

the comfortable classic for the more mature owner.

The body colours also get rather strange names in James Bond, Saturday White Fever and Buzz Light Green. In fact, the Adam is a car for all people. Over a million combinations of interior and exterior specifications make virtually no ADAM the same as another. Your bespoke vehicle starts with the order list.

Vauxhall hopes the ADAM will reach not just the committed Vauxhall but attract those not previously considering the brand.

The ADAM itself is based on a Corsa platform which has been reduced – this gives you an indication of the size of the vehicle. There is a choice of engines, with a 1.2-litre, 1.4-litre and in my particular case for this test, a delightful 1-litre 3-cylinder 998cc engine, producing 115bhp and a very commendable low CO2 emission, which puts it in the £30 per year tax bracket.

The combined fuel figures are quoted at 57mpg and I achieved 49mpg during my week on varied road surfaces, which I thought was quite reasonable.

All the models in the range get as standard, air conditioning, remote central locking, a decent radio system, and there is also an option for a centre control screen which can display your phone, satnav and various other items.

From a driving and passenger perspective the ADAM, being in the small category, is a vehicle that has surprising qualities. It will comfortably seat four people but there will then be a luggage issue. Primarily, the ADAM is not really suitable to family life but it makes a very pleasant second vehicle.

Drawbacks I found were the three-door access to the rear was awkward. And the



.....
‘Over a million combinations of interior and exterior specifications make virtually no ADAM the same as another. Your bespoke ADAM starts with the order list’

driver and passenger doors are huge. This translates in to requiring a large amount of space on a car park just to open the doors and allow driver and passengers to exit.

I really enjoyed driving the car, the engine seemed to be perfectly tuned to the size and the dynamics of the suspension, and the handling at all times was comfortable, precise and relatively comfortable.

All in all, the ADAM is a vehicle that allows you to customise to your heart's content, and when you see some of the variables in the colour schemes and add in

the extras which can be incorporated on the interior, there will be some interesting ADAMS on the road.

I worry, however, in two or three year's time when you take that highly customised vehicle to the dealer, what the reaction will be.

I well remember a very vivid-coloured Peugeot 206 cabriolet I owned some years ago, and the dealer saying we will never sell it in that colour. Time will tell who is right and who is wrong.

Prices start from £11,575.



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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 85g/km.*

*£2,000 Scrappage Allowance towards a new car is offered on condition that the traded-in car has been registered in your name as the owner for at least 90 days and the registration document is in your name and address. Offer available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 units (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offer applies to selected new vehicles ordered between 8 October 2015 and 15 December 2015. *Excludes VIVA, ADAM JAM, New Corsa Sting, New Corsa Sting R. Ts&Cs apply. Participating Retailers only. UK supplied vehicles only. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

business directory

businesses for sale

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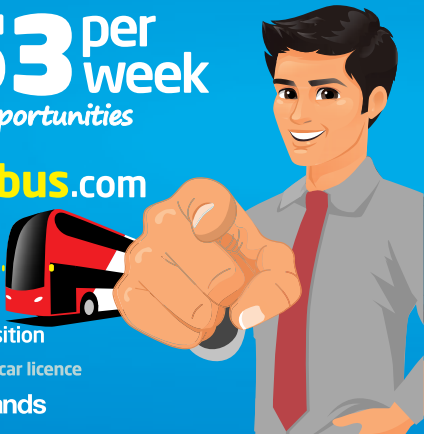
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Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2013 (as amended)
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15/1309 Mrs S.K. Khiera FOR: CONVERSION OF FORMER WORKSHOP TO FOUR FLATS ON LAND REAR OF 2 GLEBE STREET. AT: 2, GLEBE STREET, WALSALL, WS1 3NX
15/1526 Mr Graham Abigail Wilson-Burn-Murdoch FOR: OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 9 DETACHED DWELLINGS. ACCESS, LAYOUT AND SCALE TO BE DETERMINED. AT: 47 PORTLAND ROAD, ALDRIDGE, WALSALL, WEST MIDLANDS, WS9 8NU
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10 Personals

personal

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round one

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round two

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Ladies side pull in new sponsorship

WALSALL LADIES have announced a new first-team kit sponsorship with ABC Finance.

The Walsall company is owned by Peter Hemmings and his son Lee who are lifelong supporters of the Saddlers.

Walsall are struggling to adapt to life in the West Midlands Regional League Premier Division, despite being promoted without losing a single game last season.

They have lost six of their opening eight league games, including their last fixture against top-of-the-table Crusaders, after losing players over the summer.

Looking to get back to winning ways, they host third-placed Kinghurst Sporting Club on Sunday.

The first team play their home games at Hazel Lane, Great Wyrley – which is also home to Wolverhampton Sporting – while the junior sides are based at West Walsall E-ACT Academy on Saturday mornings.

Call 01922701692 or email walsallcladies@gmail.com

Albion need to ‘go back to the basics’

CHRIS BRUNT wants Albion to go back to basics at home in order to stop conceding so many goals.

The Baggies have picked up just four points from six games at The Hawthorns this season.

Tony Pulis’ side have been defensively sound away from home but at home they’ve lost three games 3-2.

“We pride ourselves on not conceding goals and at home this season it’s been difficult for us,” said Brunt. “We’ve only won here once and we’ve conceded three goals on a few occasions so that’s obviously something we have to address as a team. I’m sure we’ll look at it this week.”

“I think maybe it’s about time we went back to basics at home and made sure we were difficult to beat,” said Brunt.

McClean ‘will always get stick’

TONY PULIS has told James McClean to expect stick wherever he goes in the Premier League.

McClean was booed by some of the Leicester fans on Saturday because of his decision not to wear a poppy on his shirt.

Like the Sunderland game, there were also anti-IRA chants directed at the Republic of Ireland international.

“James is going to get stick, he knows that,” said Pulis. “It’s part of his life in the Premier League.”

But the winger’s lung-busting efforts up and down the left flank have enamoured him to Albion fans.

Although some supporters thought his celebration in front of the Sunderland fans was reckless, there

were others who liked the passion. The winger put in another solid performance on Saturday and has built a strong partnership with full-back Chris Brunt.

“The supporters have taken to him and they like him here and he’s done well again,” said Pulis.

Although Rickie Lambert’s penalty proved to be just a consolation goal, the manager hopes breaking his competitive duck for the club will spark the former Liverpool striker into scoring more for the Baggies.

“Lambert might benefit from getting off the mark,” he said. “He’s looked sharper in training as well which has been good.”

In Salomon Rondon, Pulis already has a striker

who appears to be at the start of a good run.

Two goals in two games has silenced the doubters wondering if the Venezuelan was worth the £12m Albion paid in the summer.

But the manager is worried that any form his main targetman finds for Albion could be scuppered by another international break.

“He played well at Norwich,” said Pulis. “The problem we’ve got is that after Man United he goes away again for two weeks.”

“He’s a big big star and a big player out in Venezuela.

“He just doesn’t play football matches he’s touted round everywhere.”

Wolves were like a well-oiled machine

Blues 0 Wolves 2
CHOOSING next week’s lottery numbers will be easier to predict than this Wolves team.

Defeat after defeat after defeat, followed by an almost faultless away performance at St Andrew’s, perfectly executed by a disciplined, organised and resolute side that knew exactly what its game plan was, and stuck to it.

Wolves won comfortably. Against a team they started the day nine points behind. So who saw that coming?

Kenny Jackett might have done, and he cannot be praised enough for masterminding what was an important victory, both in terms of supporter morale, and the bigger picture of the play-offs.

In reducing the gap to sixth-placed Blues to six points, it keeps their heads above water in the play-off race.

It also eases the pressure on Jackett, who knows that a season of drifting aimlessly along in mid-table obscurity with no hope of a push at the top six would probably cost him his job.

Surprise

But aside from a well-planned and well-delivered strategy, there was more behind this surprise victory.

Wolves have now won five Championship games this season, three of them since Steve Morgan’s bombshell departure in late September.

And while any upturn or downturn in form cannot be attributed to the club being put up for a sale, a sudden change in transfer policy certainly can.

Morgan long campaigned for the virtues of youth in the Wolves squad, bankrolling the new training academy, and it is believed the policy to flood the first team with ‘young and hungry’ talent came directly from the top.

It is a policy Jackett has happily (in the public domain at least) worked within, largely untroubled.

But Wolves have gone to extreme lengths to continue that policy of late, shearing the squad of any players aged 30 or over, and of course controversially selling Richard Stearman for just £2m, electing instead to let the 20-year-olds Dominic Iorfa and Kortney Hause be given room to blossom and develop at centre-half.

With Iorfa – as is Jackett’s preference – playing at right-back and Hause injured, that decision has proved folly, just weeks after it was



The lively Nathan Byrne stakes his claim for a permanent run on the left wing, here taking on Maikel Kieftenbeld

enacted. And with Morgan gone Wolves have, low and behold, performed a complete U-turn and this week brought in a 31-year-old and a 34-year-old, in Mike Williamson and Grant Holt.

Experiences has been one of the many attributes lacking in Wolves’ season so far, but in Williamson and Holt they added 847 games’ worth to their ranks in the space of two days.

Confusing? Yes, but better Wolves change their

minds now and add a couple of wise heads, rather than pig-headedly stick to a philosophy that was taking them nowhere, in the short term at least.

Elsewhere the dominant Kevin McDonald and the composed Iorfa were part of a solid defensive unit that rendered Emiliano Martinez’s gloves an unused item.

And Nathan Byrne excelled down the left, typifying Wolves’ dynamic counter-attacking approach.

Benbow bangs in the winner from the spot

Rushall 1 Mickleover 0

TEN-MAN Rushall Olympic extended their winning home streak to five games with this FA Trophy success.

Rushall had the first effort of the game when Kris Taylor fired over the bar from 30 yards after the ball sat up nicely.

Ross Atkins, in the Mickleover goal, did well to keep out Jack Duggan’s header at his near post and then Michael Townsend headed over from the resultant corner.

The Pics took the lead on 27 minutes as Luke Benbow dispatched a penalty following a Nico Degirolamo handball.

Greg Pearson had the only effort of note for Mickleover, but Duggan got in the way to block his shot.

Jake Heath did well to fashion a chance out of nothing but dragged his shot wide from just inside the box.

Dean Coleman tipped over San Finlaw’s goalbound corner before Mitchell Tolley sliced wide.

Atkins pulled off the save of the match to deny Tolley from a header – sticking out a glove to keep the score down to one.

Ethan Delaney forced an easier save from Atkins but then got sent off on 73 minutes for violent conduct. Despite two late efforts from Andy Dales, Rushall held on to advance to the next round.Rushall Olympic: Coleman, Christophorou, Wilkinson, Tolley, Duggan, Townsend (Caines 46), Heath, Taylor, Benbow, Wright (Martin 71), Edmunds (Delaney 46)

Mickleover Sports: Atkins, Bennett, Palmer, Broadhead, Berry, Degirolamo, Dales, Finlaw, Pearson (Oshoboke 61), O’Neil-Dwyer, Griffiths-Junior (Dawes 73)

Bloxwich First team is up to the challenge

Bloxwich Men’s 1sts 6

Market Drayton 1

BLOXWICH faced a tough challenge against a Market Drayton team who were top of the league and had only conceded one goal in their first four games.

Despite the pressure, Bloxwich got off to a perfect start with an early goal from Jake Perkins then continued to press hard in the first half and this led to Gary Williams adding another.

Bloxwich knew Market Drayton would come out all guns blazing in the second half but they kept their cool and managed to take control of the game.

Jake Perkins scored two more for his first hat-trick of the year, with Matt Whitehouse and Phil Ashcroft also getting onto the scoresheet.

Bloxwich’s defenders stood strong and were denied their clean sheet in the dying minutes of the game.

The home side were ecstatic with the result and coach Steve Mallows said he was proud of the whole team.

Swimtime splashes out on swimmers

THE underwater artists of Walsall Synchronised Swimming Club will look extra smart before and after their displays after being kitted out by Swimtime West Midlands.

The club, which has its home at the Walsall Gala Baths, is run entirely by volunteers and has been coaching the sport of Synchronised Swimming for more than 40 years.

Many Great Britain representatives have been produced by the club over its long history and they continue to compete at local, regional and national levels.

Heather Ratcliffe, owner of Swimtime West Midlands, named franchise of the year in 2015, said: “We are proud to sponsor a local club.”Head coach Amy Baker said: “It’s fantastic to receive financial support.”

Pics offering a chance to grow in sport

RUSHALL Olympic have started their first academic Scholarship year.

The Walsall club have recruited 28 students to their education-led scholarship course, that works tightly with football company @Futsal Group.

The club join a nationwide Futsal education programme. Students aged 16-19 will have the opportunity to study towards a BTEC Level 2 and 3 Extended Diploma in Sport, whilst developing the technical skills to harness their potential on the pitch.

Club vice-chairman Nick Allen said: “We’re really excited. I hope that people can see how our scholarship is different to others around.

“We’re a well-established Northern Premier League football club now but as a village club we want to push the boundaries.

“We want to help the community and push more people through this football club.

“We’ve had to think outside the box but hopefully this scheme will aid the reputation of the club and help the sustainability.”

The football club’s partnership with @Futsal Group sees them join the Futsal National Development League programme, which involves a range

Football

of professional and semi-professional clubs nationwide.

Participating clubs establish an Scholarship scheme to deliver the sport and work-skills study programme, as well as competing in the national games programme. @Futsal Group are an innovative education and training provider, as well as being the UK’s market leaders for the provision of futsal as a sport.

Enrichment

The chance to study towards a national qualification with the added enrichment of playing for a professional or semi-professional football club makes for a unique opportunity.

“It is the first year for us and to have 28 on board is a really solid start,” Allen said.

“We’ve obviously been able to get through to the students and parents that Rushall is the place to be for education and football purposes. We were keen to call it a scholarship rather than an academy because the education is a heavy influence.

“Students are told that if they work hard then the football comes along with it.

“Chris Keogh is part of our Scholarship team. People like him have tremendous local experience.

“We’ve also been working closely with the Birmingham Metropolitan College who have great tutors.”

The Pics are delivering both 11-a-side and futsal within their partnership with @Futsal Group and are looking to establish strong links between both formats of the game.

And as an incentive for any potential scholars, they’re also presented a free club tracksuit and training kit, as well as offering FA Level 1 coaching courses for football and futsal plus FA level one futsal refereeing.

The 11-a-side team will be managed in the Football Conference Youth Alliance on Wednesdays by first team assistant manager, Steve Hinks – giving a positive link between the Scholarship scheme and First Team structure, as well as playing opportunities being available in the under-18s side in the Midland Floodlit League and FA Youth Cup.

He added: “The biggest football clubs in Europe like Real Madrid and Barcelona use Futsal heavily.”



Goal ruling goes against the Lockmen

Stone Old Alleynians 2 Willenhall 1
THE Lockmen were controversially denied a West Midlands Premier point as an injury-time strike was disallowed.

Home keeper Matt Burslem spilled a low shot and Willenhall captain Dan Bryson poked the ball home.

Bryson was deemed to have kicked the ball from the keeper's hands but fan footage of the incident showed otherwise.

Willenhall took the lead on 26 minutes when Lyndon Weller and Jaihon Sedgley combined for a cross which Matt Dorgan hammered low in the far corner.

But two goals in seven minutes before half-time proved decisive. A long ball set Ollie Davies free on 37 minutes for a cool finish before Alex Kay netted after the Lockmen gave away possession.

The Lockmen had started confidently in spite of three players moving out in the week and Eddie Wilson (twice) and Alex Carlin (twice) had already forced four good saves in the first 10 minutes as they dominated proceedings.

Ben Holden returning as keeper made a brave save at the feet of an oncoming striker and Stone had three or four decent chances which were blazed horribly wide as they tried to get back in the game.

However, The Reds finally got their deserved goal when Lyndon Weller's pass picked out Jaihon Sedgley and his cross found Matt Dorgan who hammered low into the far corner.

Wilson fired inches wide three minutes later before his stunning strike produced a save to match, Burslem flying the full width of the goal to tip the ball round the post.

The second-half saw Holden make two good early saves.

Jason dedicates his winning, extra time strike to his boss

WALSALL'S Jason Demetriou has dedicated his stoppage-time winning goal against Gillingham to manager Dean Smith.

The defender netted for the first time in Saddlers colours to secure a remarkable 3-2 victory – a result which saw Smith's side leapfrog their opponents and return to the top of League One.

Earlier in the week, Demetriou revealed he had been getting stick from his boss for failing to break his goalscoring duck for the club.

And the defender, a summer signing from Anorthosis Famagusta, admitted he was delighted to finally open his account.

"The manager had been giving me a bit of stick so that goal is dedicated to him," he said.

"He brought me back to English football, it's payback and a thank-you for bringing me to Walsall. The ball fell to me and I said to myself 'just hit it'."

"Luckily it went in the back of the net, but most importantly it secured a great win for the boys and took us back to the top of the table," added Demetriou.

Garde sees size of the task at Villa

Spurs 3 Villa 1

NEW Aston Villa manager Remi Garde saw his team well beaten at White Hart Lane.

Villa remain bottom of the table after their seventh straight Premier League defeat.

And despite showing the fight for a battle against relegation, they need a dramatic boost from the changing of the Garde after taking only four points from their first 11 games.

Mousa Dembele fired Tottenham ahead after only three minutes and Dele Alli made it 2-0 on the stroke of half-time. Villa surprisingly pulled one back when Jordan Ayew's 79th-minute shot

Football

was deflected but a fine strike from Harry Kane in stoppage time made sure of the win for Spurs.

Garde's was a watching brief only with the match kicking off hours after he took charge.

To add to Villa's woe, captain Micah Richards learned shortly before kick-off that he was suspended after admitting a misconduct charge from the Football Association relating to the loss against Swansea.

Without their skipper, Villa started poorly and fell behind inside three minutes. As if to highlight

their many struggles, Spurs' Mousa Dembele collected a third-minute pass from Danny Rose on the left wing before cutting inside to the penalty area, easing past Ciaran Clark – starting in Richards' absence – and sending a left-footed shot through Brad Guzan's legs.

For a team so obviously bereft of confidence it seemed likely to be only the first of several goals that would soon follow.

The result not only consigned the visitors to further misery, it also meant their worst start to a top-flight season since 1919.

If Garde has taken one piece of knowledge from the match it is the size of the task he now faces.

THE NEVER SAY DIE SADDLERS

Walsall 3 Gillingham 2

A third of the way through the season. Top of the League One table. And a side packed with goals that never knows when it is beaten.

The past three months have been one exhilarating ride for Walsall fans.

But, best of all, the fun is showing no sign of stopping any time soon.

Justin Edinburgh's Gillingham were the latest side to be slayed in a top-of-the-table clash at the Banks' Stadium.

Just like in the victory over Burton Albion on October 10, Dean Smith's side showed they have the character needed to come away from the big games with all three points.

And boy did they need that grit, character and spirit in this one after falling two goals behind with a little over half an hour played.

It may have been Halloween but no Walsall fan wants to see frightening defending at any time of year. Yet Cody McDonald's opener came after the Saddlers' defence was uncharacteristically cut open by just one ball.

Spooky

Then Paul Downing really got into the spooky theme with a horror foul that allowed the hosts to go two up.

The centre-back should have headed away a routine clearance by Gills keeper Stuart Nelson.

Instead he let Bradley Dack nip in before hauling the forward to the floor, giving referee Darren Dyrdale no option but to point to the spot.

Frustratingly, that goal came just as Walsall were winding up into their rhythm.

In the opening half an hour, Gillingham had shown what an all-round side they are.

Good on the ball, but willing to get back and defend in numbers – Edinburgh has also built a side that is tough, street smart and not afraid to give away fouls.

It had taken time for Smith's team to get used to the robust, physical nature of the game.

And, two goals down against the league leaders, you couldn't help but fear they were in trouble.

Yet the character showed by grabbing a last-minute equaliser in the draw at Colchester



Kieron Morris scores for the Saddlers in a thrilling game that went down to the wire

shone through again with Kieron Morris getting his side back in the game with a spectacular 25-yard drive.

It was a goal Morris deserved, having been given a start following a string of fine cameos from the bench in recent weeks.

And within 60 seconds the Saddlers were level with Milan Lalkovic netting his third goal in as many games.

Now Walsall really had their tails up with the influential Romaine Sawyers suddenly playing further forward and home debutant George Evans again excellent as he kept things ticking over in midfield.

That momentum continued into the second half, but when Gillingham did threaten they met the imperious Adam Chambers and James O'Connor, who once again put their bodies on the line for the cause.

Also excellent was goalkeeper Neil Etheridge, who took his place between the sticks despite having eight stitches out of his knee on Thursday.

The Philippines international handled a number of tasty Gillingham crosses into the box, often correctly opting to punch to ease the strain on his defenders. What was most pleasing about this victory was the way Walsall pushed and pushed for a winner right until the end.

Ashley joins the board for Wolves

WOLVES have appointed a new director to their board in the wake of Steve Morgan's departure.

Ashley Lewis, a long-time business associate of Wolves' ex-chairman, was formerly with Manchester City for more than 20 years, and has replaced Morgan.

Morgan has acted to install finance expert Lewis as he bids to ease the transition between owners. He put the club up for sale in September, just 48 hours after being verbally abused by supporters following Wolves' 1-1 draw at Deepdale against Preston.

Morgan has yet to speak publicly about his bombshell exit, but it is believed family reasons, as well as supporter dissatisfaction, were behind the shock walkout.

Lewis will act as Morgan's eyes and ears on the board and help facilitate the sale of the club. He joins Jez Moxey, John Gough and John Bowater on the board.

Bridgemere Group, of which Morgan is chairman, own Wolves and Morgan was keen to have a company representative on the board during what may be a protracted sale process.

Lewis is a director at Bridgemere Group, and was previously acting finance director at Manchester City for 10 years from 1994. He then became a non-executive director at the club, leaving in 2005.

Morgan resigned from the Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club (1986) board on the same day as Lewis was installed, October 12.

However, he remains a director of Wolverhampton Wanderers Properties, which owns Molineux, land around the stadium and Wolves' training ground. Lewis has also been made a director.

Tom's work rate is exceptional – Smith

BOSS Dean Smith has praised the selfless attitude of striker Tom Bradshaw following Walsall's return to the top of League One.

The forward is the Saddlers' leading scorer with nine goals but hasn't found the net in his last four games.

But even when he isn't finding the target, Smith believes the 23-year-old Welshman is integral to Walsall's play.

"We've scored seven goals against Colchester and Gillingham in our last two games and best of all Bradshaw hasn't been on the scoresheet."

"Against Gillingham, Romaine Sawyers got man of the match. What's got lost in some of that is Tom hasn't scored but his work rate ... is exceptional."

★★★

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